

Welcome back!

Good afternoon Snakes! We have just finished our first week back and I wanted to say how proud you should be of your children. I am amazed at how hard they have worked this week and how they have supported and looked after one another.

This week in class, we have been carrying out assessments in English, maths, reading, spelling, punctuation and grammar. The reason for this is we want a clear picture of where the class is with their learning, so we can plan work that will cover potential 'gaps'.

This term our PE days are Tuesday (swimming) and Wednesday (outdoor). As in Year 3, children are to come to school in PE kit (White t-shirt and black shorts/leggings/tracksuit bottoms) on the days we have PE.

Homework expectations

Reading	To read at least 4 times per week at home, recorded in the reading record.
Spelling	Practice spellings once a day
Times Tables Rock Stars <a href="https://trockstars.com/">https://trockstars.com/</a>	25 garage games per week (minimum), using the times tables rock stars app or website

### Accelerated Reader/ Home Reading/ Reading records

As you know, reading is such an important skill for children to be confident with. To help build up this skill in a way that is interesting to the children, the school uses a scheme called Accelerated Reader.

Children are given a test to find a suitable book, which will provide an achievable but good level of challenge. After your child has finished reading their book they will take a quiz (with the book as a reference), which they need to pass before they can move to the next reading level. Each reading level has a range of books, so it is fairly easy for your child to find a book which will be of interest to them.

We keep both electronic and paper records of your child's progress at school. We also send home a reading record with your child, which can be used to keep track of any reading done at home, but also helps you to follow the progress of quiz results and reading progress. Please could you fill in the reading record every time your child reads at home and send their reading record in every day. Children reading more than four times per week receive house points on a Friday.

The basic idea behind Accelerated Reading is that it helps children work on both their reading skills (increasingly complex words, stamina) but also their ability to be able to understand what they have read; comprehension (or being able to read between the lines). This second skill is slower to develop and it is often the case that children will feel they are reading 'easy books' while they catch-up with this skill. Accelerated Reading is not an exact science and it usually takes a week or two after a test for your child to find a level of books that hits the challenge's sweet spot.

Although we ask your child to read their Accelerated Reading book at home, it is important not to discourage them from reading other things that interest them. If they are reading for

pleasure a book which is more complex than their Accelerated Reading book, this is not a problem at all. They can even complete a quiz for that book in school when they have finished (it all provides interesting information on your child as a reader, and helps us to find the right level to help them progress).

### Times Tables Rock Stars

The government has introduced a mandatory times table check for children in Year 4. The test has to be taken during the summer term, with children expected by this time to be able to rapidly recall their times tables multiplication facts up to 12x12.

In order for children to work towards this target, the school has subscribed to 'Times Tables Rockstars'. This app/site when used regularly, helps children to build up their confidence and fluency.

On a Friday morning, your child will be tested on their times tables, using 'Times Tables Rockstars'. To prepare for the weekly test, your child will be expected to play at least 25 'garage' games per week using the app/website with each game only taking a minute to complete.

### Spelling lists

Our Friday spelling test has 7 words which focus on a particular spelling pattern and 3 words which are from the government's list of words most children should be able to spell by the end of Year 4. Although your child will have time to practise spelling in school, working on spellings at home will help them to become more confident spellers.

Half-termly spelling lists are uploaded to Google Classroom for you to download and practise in preparation for the weekly spelling test.

A powerful way to help your child with their spellings at home is to ask them to practise writing their spellings in sentences. Giving spellings a context helps them to not only remember the spelling for that week but to also increase the likelihood they will add these words to their wider vocabulary.

### Google Classroom

Google Classroom will hopefully be set up in time for next week's newsletter and will mainly be used by us to post the school newsletter, spelling lists and homework sheets. It will be used by you to upload homework and collect any information about the class. So that Google classroom works as efficiently as possible, could you please:

1. Log into Google Classroom with your child's account and join Snake Class.
2. If you have forgotten your password, please email [support@tenbury-pri.worcs.sch.uk](mailto:support@tenbury-pri.worcs.sch.uk) stating your child's name and their username. It will then be possible to provide a password reset.

Thank you and have a great weekend,

Mr Bell