

### Homework

We encourage all children to read for 10 minutes every day at home. We encourage the children to take responsibility for changing their reading book once it has been read. We welcome the positive comments you make in the reading record and appreciate the time you take to listen to your child. It really helps them!

Children will be given spellings, literacy and maths homework on Monday which should be returned by Friday. Please practise spellings daily if possible—little and often is the best way to learn them. Spellings will be tested on Friday morning. Each piece of homework is designed to reinforce work already covered in school and should take approximately 15 minutes to complete. We endeavour to make homework tasks achievable for the class to complete independently so that the children can get used to managing their own time. However if children struggle with a task, we are always here to help them, and can always find time to help them complete a task if they get stuck.

### Expectations in Porthilly Class

Children throughout the school are encouraged at all times to be polite, diligent and hard working. We want the children to do the best they can and feel a sense of pride and achievement in everything they do. We welcome mistakes and encourage the children to persevere and be resilient. We encourage independence and organisational skills, alongside teamwork and a respect for all other members of 'Team St Minver'. We remind the children daily of our school motto, '**Be Brave, Be Kind, Belong**'.

### Class rewards

House points and stars (worth 10 house points) are given to individuals as reward for excellent behaviour, attitudes and work.

We hope you will find this information useful. If you have any further questions or queries do not hesitate to ask. You can contact Mr Gill or Mrs Hewitt using the email address: **hello@stminver.org**

We look forward to a happy and enjoyable term in Porthilly Class!

Thank you again for all your support.

With very best wishes,

Mr Gill and Mrs Hewitt



## Porthilly Class Booklet—Spring Term 2

Teachers:  
Mr Gill and Mrs Hewitt

Teaching Assistant:  
Mr Hawtin



Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Welcome back Porthilly Class!**

The first half of the spring term shot by in a blur. Over the course of this term, the children have produced some amazing work linked to our topic on Settlements and the Anglo-Saxons and it has been brilliant to see the progress the children have made. This half term, the children will continue with work linked to this topic, further extending their knowledge of life in Anglo-Saxon Britain. As the weather warms up, our topic focus switches towards the water cycle and physical geography. We have planned lots of outdoor enquiry and field work within the school grounds, which the children are sure to enjoy.

Once again, we would like to say a huge thank you to all parents and carers for your continuing support. Here's to a happy and healthy half term.

### **English**

In English, this half term, we are starting off with a range of work linked to the Anglo-Saxons. This will give us a chance to further develop our skills in descriptive writing. We will look at Kennings, an Anglo-Saxon writing structure. Once we have explored the Kenning structure, we will be looking at the epic poem from Anglo-Saxon times, Beowulf. We will do some work around the poem including writing some newspaper reports linked to the story. Finally, to take us up to the Easter break, we will be writing some explanation texts about Anglo-Saxon life.

On a weekly basis we will also be covering the following:-

- \* Whole class reading.
- \* Individual reading either independently or to an adult.
- \* Handwriting practice.
- \* SPaG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) lessons.
- \* Weekly spellings are sent home to reinforce what is being taught in school.

### **Maths**

**Year 4** To start this half term we will be beginning a unit of work on fractions. Following this, we will be looking at the link between fractions and decimals. We will finish the term by looking at decimal numbers in more detail. This term we will be: Adding and subtracting fractions, identifying equivalent fractions, working out fractions of quantities, problem solving involving fractions, decimal tenths, decimal hundredths. Throughout the half term the children will continue to work on their times tables and different ways of securing these facts will be covered in a specific session each week. Please support your child to work on these regularly, as they are crucial to success in maths.

**Year 5** This half term we finish our work on fractions and move onto decimals and percentages, comparing these with equivalent fractions and looking at decimals to the 'thousandth' point. We will learn about percentages and describe both fractions and decimals as a percentage. Just before Easter, we will begin a unit on perimeter and area, looking in the first instance at the perimeter of and area of rectangles and other rectilinear shapes.

### **Computing**

This term, we will continue to build our knowledge of computer programming. We will be using Logo to introduce the children to a text based programming language. We will use logo to create shapes and will be focussing on the use of repetition and loops within computer algorithms. The children will make links to other block-coding languages they have used (such as Scratch) and will use their developing understanding of coding to evaluate and improve their work.

### **Science**

This half term we will finish our work on sound, looking at pitch and investigating soundproofing. Following this, our science topic will be **Changing States of Matter**. We will look at the characteristics of solids, liquids and gasses and how temperature and pressure affect substances in different states, and how matter changes state. We will also be looking at changing state of matter in detail linked to evaporation, condensation and the water cycle. This will tie-in closely with our work in geography.

### **RE**

Our topic this term focusses on the Christian celebration of Easter. We will investigate the word "salvation" and discuss the importance of Good Friday and the celebration of Easter to Christians.

### **Topic**

Our topic linked to the Anglo-Saxons, which we started after Christmas, will continue this half term. In **History**, we will continue studying the Anglo-Saxons and our focus will be on everyday life in Anglo-Saxon times. We will be looking at a range of Anglo-Saxon artefacts to help us find out about the past. In **Geography**, we will finish our work on Settlements and then move on to looking at the Water cycle as well as issues linked to the conservation of our waterways. This topic will be closely linked to our work in science.

### **Music**

In Music this half term, we will be continuing our Djembe drumming. We will be composing and performing a class piece in preparation for the spring music concert at the end of term.

### **DT**

This half term, we will study Anglo-Saxon houses. We will look at how the houses were built and the materials used. After that, we will be designing Anglo-Saxon houses and using techniques and materials available to the Anglo-Saxons to build our own miniature houses.

### **French**

We will start this half term by finishing our work on directions and points of the compass linked to European countries as well as towns and cities in Great Britain. We will then start our main topic of the half term in which we will use our phonic knowledge to read and write food items from memory and learn how to express a preference to say I like / don't like.

### **PSHE (Personal Social and Health Education)**

This term we will be following the Jigsaw framework unit: **Healthy Me**. We will be looking at friendships, friendship groups and the roles people take within a friendship or social group. We will then look at pressure within social groups and the importance of making our own decisions based on what we believe is right or wrong. As part of this topic we will touch on some of the issues linked to the potentially harmful substances tobacco and alcohol.

### **PE**

This term the children will have PE on a Monday afternoon with Mr Gill and Friday afternoon with Mrs Hewitt. The focus of P.E. this half term is **Dance and Invasion Games**. In dance, the children will learn to create increasingly complex dance sequences responding to a range of music and stimulus. The children will compose group pieces to show to the class using our science work on sound and changing states of matter as inspiration. In our work on invasion games the children will focus on putting their passing and movement skills into action in game situations. They will work cooperatively to keep games going and evaluate their performance. On P.E. days the children should continue to come to school in their P.E. kits. As the children will be in their PE kit all day, please make sure they are dressed appropriately for the weather. Your child may wear plain dark leggings or jogging bottoms on these days.