

## **Dear Parents and Carers,**

To those families in Years 4,5 and 6 'welcome back' and to those children in Year 3 welcome to the junior school. When newsletters are produced they always go out on Friday so please check your children's book bags to see if they have one. It is amazing how many times parents tell us they didn't know about particular information and then we find 5 copies of the newsletter in their book bag! This newsletter contains important information about the start of the year so please read it through carefully.

### **1. Homework.**

Homework is set in accordance with our homework policy which is approved by governors. Each week children are expected to:

- Read each evening (younger children with a parent) and complete their reading diary.
- Get 1000 points on 'Mathletics' - which must be completed online
- Complete 1 other piece of homework that is set by their class teacher.

'Mathletics' has now been reset and all children have been issued with a new login and password for this year. They should not share this with other children as there were problems last year when this happened. All Year 3 children have had a lesson with Mr Roberts this week about how the program works and should be able to navigate their way around the program, although to start with they will probably need some guidance from an adult. Children should use the different curriculum sections or the 'live Mathletics' challenge to try to get 1000 points which will then get them a bronze certificate. 5 bronze certificates equal a silver certificate and 4 silvers equal a gold certificate—so it takes 20 weeks of completed homework to get a gold certificate. Gold certificates are presented in assembly and each week the class with the most certificates goes first to play on a Friday. The teachers here all really believe that doing 'Mathletics' regularly will help improve your child's basic maths skills. It is best if they spend 15 minutes doing it each week night and vary the activities that they choose in order to get the maximum benefit.

We have found that very few children now do not have internet access and some children even manage to do their homework at internet cafes. However, if you cannot arrange access, even with other family members, the school do run 'Mathletics' clubs. Please speak to Miss Hunt in 6K to arrange for your child to attend. We do not accept that any child is unable to do their homework.

### **2. Planning for this term**

The planning for each year group for this term is now available on the year group homepages on the school's website [www.whitehorse.croydon.sch.uk](http://www.whitehorse.croydon.sch.uk)—through the 'pupil zone'.

### **3. PE kits**

May I remind you all about the rules regarding PE kit. In the school prospectus it says 'PE kit consists of a plain white T-shirt and black shorts for gymnastics and dance and because these sessions are held inside the children are barefooted'. For games and athletics, the same kit is used, but with socks (no tights) and trainers. For outdoor games, black tracksuit bottoms and school sweatshirts may be worn. All children must change for indoor and outdoor PE. Clothes should be non restrictive, but baggy clothing is unsuitable and a potential safety hazard. We ask for a T-shirt with short sleeves and not a vest. This policy is now being more strictly enforced and children who bring other kit to school will be asked to change into school kit. Please support us in this. We now suggest that children leave

PE kit in school until half term and new PE bags will soon be on sale in the school shop.

Best wishes