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Apple Class Newsletter- Autumn Term 2016

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all enjoyed the Summer holidays and were able to take advantage of the unusually kind weather. The children certainly look tanned, well rested, and ready to learn: they have already made a good start in Apple Class.

Topic across Terms One and Two

Our first topic of the year will span both terms and take us up to Christmas. It is entitled '**Encryption**' and will focus mainly on History, Computing and RE. The History component will look at the lives of the Ancient Egyptians and the significance of the River Nile to the development of their civilisation. We will go on to study their religious beliefs and the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamun by Howard Carter. In computing, pupils will complete a variety of different coding activities. RE will continue to address ultimate and ethical questions starting with 'Can we know what God looks like?'

Homework

Homework will be posted on the school website by 5.00pm on Friday evenings and will follow the same format as last year. Homework will need to be returned to school on **Wednesday** and books will be marked and sent back out on Friday. Children will also be encouraged to use the given websites to practise basic English and Maths skills. However, please note that these will not be marked.

PE

During Term 1, PE lessons will take place on Monday afternoons and Thursday mornings. Club Energy will continue to teach the Thursday session and will focus on invasion games. During Term 2, Apple Class will swim on Mondays. It is essential that children have their named PE kit in school on these days. All pupils should have indoor and outdoor kit (e.g. **shorts and t-shirts** for indoors and **tracksuit bottoms, a long sleeved top and trainers** for outdoor sessions). Pupils who do not have the correct footwear for each session will unfortunately not be able to participate in the lesson. Children should keep their PE kit in school for the whole week rather than bringing it to school on given PE days, as this gives us the flexibility to work around the weather.

Earrings

Pupils are not permitted to take part in PE lessons whilst wearing earrings (unless they have been pierced within the last six weeks; in which case they are permitted to tape them up until six weeks have passed.) Staff are not permitted to assist pupils with the removal or insertion of earrings. If pupils are not able to manage earrings independently, they should not wear them to school on days when PE is timetabled to take place.

Outdoor Inclusion Sessions with Bardwell School

Our timetabled outdoor session, for this term, is on a Wednesday afternoon when we will be joined by a small group of children from Bardwell. It is vital that children have appropriate clothing available in school which may include trousers/tracksuit bottoms, warm jumper, waterproof coat and wellingtons (plus hats and gloves as the weather gets colder). These clothes need to be separate from PE clothes as they are liable to get wet and muddy.

Please send appropriate clothing in a named plastic bag. Due to limited space in the cloakroom area, it would be helpful if pupils brought their outdoor learning kit to school on Wednesday and took it home again at the end of the day.

All pupils should have a pair of outdoor shoes, separate from those they use in PE, in school at all times

Reminders

- **School Dinners** – please continue to order school dinners using the order forms which are available from the school office and on the school website. Dinners for the week need to be ordered by the preceding Wednesday.
- **Packed Lunches** – please can I remind you that the school requests that **packed lunches do not contain nuts** – as we do have children in school who have severe allergic reactions to them. We also ask that grapes or cherry tomatoes included in lunch boxes are cut in half to help prevent choking.
- **Water Bottles** – please make sure children have a water bottle with them every day (separate from any drink in their lunch box) as this allows them to access water as and when they require it. Please note we only want water in these bottles (not squash, juice or flavoured water).
- **Hair** – please can you ensure that long hair is tied back or plaited. This helps ensure children's safety when using climbing equipment etc. and also curbs the spread of head lice.
- **Outdoor Shoes** – All pupils should be prepared for outdoor play by keeping outdoor shoes such as wellies and a warm, waterproof coat in school.
- **Absence and sickness** – please let the office know if your child is not attending because they are ill. Also please note that Health Protection Agency guidance states that children should not return to school for **48 hours after the last episode of either sickness or diarrhoea**.

Dates for your Diary- please also check the school website on a regular basis.

29th September- MacMillan Coffee Afternoon fundraising event.

6th October –Harvest Celebration 11.00am at St Mary's Church in Chesterton

14th October – Apple Class Sharing Worship.

16th and 17th November – Parents' Evenings

Contact

Should you need to contact me about any matter arising, you may email me directly on the following email address:

lqas3882@chesterton.oxon.sch.uk

Lindy Gascoigne - Apple Class