

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you have had a wonderful summer holiday with your children and have enjoyed the gorgeous weather. I just wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself and pass on a few bits of information about the coming year.

My name is Mr Howitt, and I am thrilled to be joining the Kneesall team as Kingfisher Class teacher, as well as taking on the role of SENCO across the school. I am excited to become part of the school community and look forward to working closely with you all over the coming year.

In the Autumn term, our learning theme will be the changes and developments in history from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. In our English lessons, we will be reading the fantastic book *Stone Age Boy* and we will use this as inspiration for the children to write their own prehistoric setting descriptions. We will also be investigating cave art and the pottery made by the Bronze Age Beaker People in our Art lessons – I am really looking forward to seeing how the children use their fantastic imaginations to create their own unique pieces.

In PE lessons, we will be focussing on outdoor activities and invasion skills, and our lessons will take place on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Please ensure that your child comes to school wearing their PE kit on these days. For safety reasons, we kindly ask that long hair is tied back and that earrings are either removed or securely covered.

Homework for this half term will be confirmed very soon but, in the meantime, I would really appreciate your support in sharing books with your children and hearing them read on a regular basis. Reading for just 15 minutes a day has been proven to make a huge difference to a child's development. We will be listening to each child read at least once a week in school and it would be really helpful if reading diaries could be kept up to date and brought into school in book bags each day. This allows us to work closely with you to support your child's reading journey and foster a lifelong love of books.

At the end of Year 4, all children take the Multiplication Tables Check, which assesses their recall of times table facts up to 12 x 12. To help with this, I would highly recommend *Times Tables Rock Stars*. It is a fun, engaging and low-pressure way for children to practise their times tables, and the format is very similar to the official test they will complete at the end of the year. Where possible, please support your child by encouraging them to practise their times tables regularly. Even a few minutes of practice several times a week can make a significant difference to their confidence, fluency and overall progress in maths.

Thank you for your support. I am incredibly excited to be joining the Kneesall community and I look forward to working closely with you all. Please do come and introduce yourselves at pick-up. It would be lovely to put faces to names, and I am always happy to answer any questions or discuss any concerns you may have.

Kind regards,

Mr Howitt