

# World War Two



1839 + Bures School

## Wonderland Class Newsletter



Bombs and Blasts : The Blitz in Britain

**HISTORY:** The theme for this term is World War Two with special focus on The Blitz. We will take the opportunity to look at photographs that show the horrors of the Blitz and get an understanding of why this tactic was used by Hitler and how the British defended themselves and were able to “Keep calm and carry on”! We will look at other events from the World War for focused study, while gaining a good overview of the war during its six years. We will look at the significant cities in the UK and across Europe and why they were targeted and how they have changed since the War. Our English Writing lessons will help focus on the War too as we will be learning to write a recount as if one of the characters of “Letters from the Lighthouse”, a superb story set in Wartime England.

There will inevitably be some delicate issues mentioned, as the nature of war is not pleasant. It is important your children understand the overview of the war, but please be reassured that information will be dealt with carefully and your children given opportunities to talk about how they feel about what they are learning.

|           |  |         |   |
|-----------|--|---------|---|
| Computing | Online Safety  | Music   | World Music   |
| French    | Ourselves and Family                                 | RE      | Christianity: Gospels for good news                     |
| Art       | 3D, painting & sketching informed by WW2.            | English | Letters from the Lighthouse                             |
| D&T       | Making seasonal soup. Replica of an Anderson Shelter | P E     | Throwing and catching skills. SCS Coaches on Thursdays. |

# Autumn Term: WONDERLAND CLASS NEWSLETTER

## Welcome Back to the first term of the final year of Primary School!

I am thrilled to teach the children again having taught the majority of them three years ago in Year 3. There are a few additional faces and some have left. This is a new start though for us all and will be an amazing year, I am sure.

## The class team...

I am pleased to confirm our class team:

**Mrs Ray** provides cover on Thursday when I am not in class and knows the children very well.

**Mrs Bodi**, will provide additional focused support throughout the week, having worked alongside them for a number of years.

We will continue to focus on listening skills and working collaboratively throughout all the lessons. Our three school rules of **Ready, Respectful, and Responsible** will continue to be key in our approach to the school day, with a "Glory board" to recognise those children "caught doing the right thing".

Time will be taken to allow the children to settle back in to school and the routines that are now in place to reduce the risk on Covid-19 alongside reminding them of school expectations. Certificates awarded on Fridays during Celebration Assembly will now relate to the three Rules and be awarded for exceptional adherence to Ready, Respect and Responsibility.

We will continue to study English and maths in the mornings, with science, ICT, RE, PE, art, music, history, geography and PSHE in the afternoons. English Reading will be delivered to groups following the Success for All format and in addition we will have English Writing lessons to focus on the high expectations of written work that is required of year 6. The emphasis is very much on quality over quantity and the children have already shown promising signs of adapting to this new format well.

Your child's progress can only benefit by you being involved and being an active partner with the teaching team. We welcome your communications, but would request that you **arrange a meeting with a class teacher via the school office in advance as your first point of contact**. Messages via the planners are a quick and simple form of contact for less sensitive issues (just tell your child to show it to me, please!). The day most suitable for meetings with me after school is Monday.

## How you can help at home...

You can help to support your child's education in the following ways:

**Sleep** – plenty of it and preceded by a quiet and calm atmosphere, without any electronic gadgets, - a shared bedtime story is so much better! It has been proven that after watching any screen (including TV) it can take up to an hour for a child's brain activity to slow back down to normal levels ready for sleeping.

**Helping your child to be independent** and get their own belongings ready for each school day will encourage the right mind-set whilst at school too, as well as making mornings calmer. Star charts and lists can really help. Arriving promptly at school in the mornings will help the children to prepare for the day and be ready to learn, sitting in their seats, by 8.50am. Please make sure that they arrive at the school gate in time to facilitate this.

**Please note: Children must not bring any items into school, in order to help keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible unless the teacher is informed in advance and it is for educational purposes.**

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Try to seize any small pockets of time for **spellings or times tables practice**. A little and often is so much better than one long session and can hopefully be worked easily around normal family routines. Spelling homework is via Spelling Frame, the online system for which your child has a login. Spellings may vary as they will be generated by monitoring your child's work during their literacy group in addition to the National Curriculum lists for year 6. Times Tables homework is set through TT Rockstars for which they also have a login. Any problems can be addressed by attending homework club.

It is important to encourage your children to master their times tables. Knowing **all** their times tables will allow your children to access the work in Year 6 far more readily. They are an essential foundation. Your assistance in this will pay huge dividends in future learning.

Please be aware of the homework set by checking in their log books and on TT Rockstars and make sure the children give it the appropriate time and attention. By all means let your children work with pencil and paper to hand for jotting down and make sure that they have sufficient time so that they don't feel pressured.

### Timetable

Please be aware, due to the nature of all that goes on at a primary school, timetables may change! Science, computing and humanities are included in afternoon sessions. PE will be on Thursday (SCS Coaches) and Wednesday afternoons.

### Things to remember...

- Be ready for PE on Wednesdays and Thursdays – your child can wear plain black shorts / jogging bottoms along with trainers into school. They should still wear school top (or coloured PE T-shirt) and jumpers/cardigans. This means that they will not need to change for PE lessons.
- Homework is set on Tuesday and is to be completed by the next Tuesday lunchtime.
- Snacks should be of *fruit only* – fresh or dried – but not processed foods. Please ensure that they are in a separate container from any packed lunch box/bag and **small** enough to fit in your child's drawer easily.
- As Autumn progresses, children may need to layer up clothing as doors and windows will remain open as much as possible for health and safety reasons.

Thank you.

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## Reading to complement our theme:

(You may want to check the content of books first as some story lines may have challenging scenes.)

Letters from The Lighthouse by Emma Carroll. ... (used for our writing stimulus)

Once by Morris Gleitzman. ...

When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit by Judith Kerr. ...

Goodnight Mister Tom by Michelle Magorian. ...

Carrie's War by Nina Bawden. ...

My Secret Diary by Flossie Albright by Marcia Williams. ...

The Lion and The Unicorn by Shirley Hughes

Our Castle by the Sea by Lucy Strange

I am David by Anne Holm

The Emergency Zoo by Miriam Halahmy

My Secret War Diary, by Flossie Albright by Marcia Williams

The Buried Crown by Ally Sherrick

Tail-End Charlie by Mick Manning

Woeful Second World War by Terry Deary (Horrible Histories series)

Jet the Rescue Dog by David Long & Peter Bailey

The Silver Sword by Ian Seraille

Anne Frank by Josephine Poole

Ausländer by Paul Dowswell

Skyward by Sally Deng

When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit by Judith Kerr

The Children of Willesden Lane by Mona Golabek and Lee Cohen

## And finally...

We will take a gentle approach to the return to school after such a disrupted two years. There is a worry box in the class for children to put notes in if they want to be anonymous. We will take a mixed approach of addressing gaps and progressing forwards in all our subjects, with low level quick quizzes rather than formal tests to monitor how the children are settling in. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch.

**Mrs Baker and Mrs Bodi**