



# Ashley Junior School

Aspiration • Resilience • Respect • Responsibility

9<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the Spring Term in Robin Class, we hope it will be another busy, exciting and enjoyable term and we wish you all a very Happy New Year!

Our Topic is 'Yabba Dabba Doo' and will be all about the Stone Age, ancient civilisations and how people lived a very long time ago. Have a look at the Topic Web to give you some idea of the sorts of things we will be doing. It will encompass narrative writing, non-fiction writing and poetry. As always it is our mission to make the curriculum as engaging and inspiring as we can. We are hoping to visit The Ancient Technology Centre along with our mainstream Y3 buddies and look at some resources and artefacts from the time. We will be watching some 'Flintstones' cartoons to spot the mistakes!

Most of the children in the class are included into mainstream classes for at least one or two afternoons each week and it is during these times that the majority of their science, history and geography curriculum will be covered. Have a look on the school website to see the different year group topics and the curriculum content. The science that we will be covering in Robins is based around Rocks and Soils and considering the properties and uses of different materials such as durability, flexibility and insulation.

There will be lots of art activities linked to the topic including looking at Stone Age art and reproducing our own art in that style. We will also use salt dough to make our own artefacts.

The children all do PE and Music and some Computing with their mainstream buddies and this is on different days. All Robin class need to have their named PE kit in school every day so it is best to bring it on a Monday and then it can be sent home on a Friday.

Generally speaking, Robins do Literacy activities in the morning followed by a Circle Time/Story Time and break/snack time. Please remember that healthy snacks such as fruit and vegetables are the only snack we allow. After break there are maths activities and we usually use the Lexia Reading Programme before lunch. After lunch the children are involved in a range of settings – some are included in mainstream classes and some in nurture groups while some remain in the classroom. The Robins children are carefully placed according to need and this will vary.

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The children will all continue to bring their book bag home each day and it is important that this is returned **every day**. In the book bag you will find, as before, a reading book and a reading record where you can record your reading with your child. Please read as often as you can with your child. The whole school participate in the 'Reading Raffle' scheme where those children who read regularly to an adult at home and record it in their Reading Record earn a raffle ticket. The raffle is drawn in assembly each week for the chance to win a book. It is important to read and re-read texts until the vocabulary is really familiar. It is also important to talk about the story and the characters – what they are doing and how they might be feeling.

There will be some words your child needs to learn to spell written in a handwriting book. Please practise these frequently, daily if possible. There are also the 'tag words' which the children need to recognise on sight. Again, frequent (daily) practise with these is the only way to achieve fluency. In school we will regularly check how the children are doing with their words and add more as needed.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Mrs Harling and the RP Team