



Welcome back!

This year our class animal is the duck-billed platypus.

Teaching Team

Miss Toms – Class teacher

Mrs Hartley – Teaching assistant (Monday –Thursday)

Mrs Bonnett – Teaching assistant (Friday)

Welcome to Oceania Class!

Welcome to a new school year and the opportunity to discover and learn all about Oceania as a continent. In Year 2, we focus our learning around the History and Geography of the continent of Oceania, including countries such as Australia and New Zealand. From The Great Barrier Reef to Māori Iwi, Captain James Cook to Aboriginal art, we cover a wealth of subjects to widen and deepen the children's understanding of this amazing area of our world.

English

This half term our English lessons will focus on story writing. We have begun reading *Wombat Goes Walkabout* by Michael Morpurgo and will be using this text to inspire our writing. Through this we will be improving our writing skills by refining our sentence structure with capital letters used correctly, full stops and question marks used appropriately, selecting precise and exciting vocabulary to include in our learning and gaining accuracy with our spelling.

After half term, our focus will shift to non-fiction information texts, where we will develop our instruction writing skills.

Reading

We will collect reading books and reading records in daily and change books when needed. Please ensure children have the opportunity to read daily and record this in their reading records, so that we can change their book when needed.

To support reading further, please can you ask children to discuss the plot, characters or theme of the books they read with you afterwards, as this aids their development of reading comprehension skills. If you would like a sheet of questions, similar to the ones they use at school, please let me know and I will print one off for you.

Phonics

We will be continuing daily phonics lessons in class, with additional, targeted support for those children who need it. When writing, children have access to sound mats and are encouraged to use their phonics skills as much as possible.

If you would like to support your child with phonics at home, please ask us for materials if needed or play games such as: www.phonicsplay.co.uk/resources

Maths

We follow the Power Maths programme of study for our Maths lessons. This term, we will be improving our skills when working with numbers up to 100 including understanding the value of digits in two-digit numbers, counting forwards and backwards in 1s, 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s and comparing numbers. We will then be moving on to addition and subtraction, using object and images before learning more formal methods and also developing our mental maths skills. Later in the term, we will be learning about shape and patterns and sequences. Please try to practice times tables and recall of number bonds (to 10 and to 20, e.g. $1+9 = 10$; $2+8 = 10$, etc. And $1+19 = 20$, $2+18=20$, etc.) at home to support our teaching in class, as it really does help. This can be done through activities at home or access to Numbots for number bonds and Times Tables Rock Stars for timetables. I also have paper versions of TTRS, which we will be doing in school, if you would like a paper version, please let me know.

Journey of Discovery

This term, we will start by looking at the geography of Australia, including major cities and landmarks. We will then be learning about some of the history of Australia including learning about the Aboriginal peoples of Australia, Captain James Cook and the voyage he took to Australia, and the arrival and experiences of other settlers. We will be using a number of famous pieces of art and famous art styles to help us further understand the history of Australia.

PE

PE lessons will take place every Wednesday and Friday. Please make sure children are prepared for their lessons on these days. Our school PE kit is as follows:

- T-Shirt: Jade or white with school logo or plain white.
- Shorts or leggings or tracksuit bottoms: Black.
- Trainers or plimsolls: Any colour.
- Round-necked sweatshirt: Any colour but plain.
*Hoodies, zip up jackets, tracksuit tops and football tops are **not** permitted.*

Earrings need to be taken out, unless they have just been pierced then we can tape them until they can be taken out, this is for health and safety.

School Uniform

Please ensure all children come to school in full uniform and prepared for the weather. Our uniform is as follows:

- Black or grey school skirt, shorts, trousers or pinafore.
- Risby green or white polo shirt.
- Risby school sweatshirt.
- Black, white or grey socks.
- Black shoes

Hair that is shoulder length or longer needs to be tied back and nail polish should not be worn in school at any time. PE kit must be worn on PE days.

Key Information

School starts at 8.40am (with gates closing at 8.50am) and ends at 3.30pm. Children will need to be prepared for the school day, with a water bottle, a coat and hat (weather dependent) and their book bag. Please remember, children are only permitted fresh fruit at Snack & Story time – unless Mrs Miller has agreed with you that your child can have alternate snacks in response to specific needs. Fresh fruit is provided for all Reception and KS1 children, but if you would prefer to send a snack in to school with your child, please ensure it is fruit.

Unless Mrs Miller has agreed otherwise, **children should only bring water to school** and *squash, juice, smoothies or fizzy drinks are not permitted*. Water and milk are available for all children at lunchtime, whether they are having a school dinner or have brought a packed lunch.

Birthdays

You are welcome to send in a 'birthday book', whereby you buy a new book for your child's class. The book will be a lasting memory and an enjoyable treat for the rest of the class and we will put a special, personalised sticker inside the book that celebrates your child's gift and date of birth!

Key Dates

Wednesday 1st October – School photos

Friday 3rd October – Harvest Festival

Monday 20th October – Parent Consultations

Thursday 23rd October – Parent Consultations

Friday 14th November – Children in Need day

Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th November – Christmas performance

We are so excited to join you on your next step of your Risby adventure! If you have any questions or wish to discuss anything further, please do not hesitate to come and speak to us: either at the door if you only need a brief chat or by calling 01284 810367 or emailing admin@risbyprimary.com to ask the Office Team to arrange a longer telephone call or a face-to-face meeting.