

## Topic



For Topic this term, the children will be focussing on the theme 'mission survive'. In this, children will be given the opportunity to learn many foundation subjects such as history, geography and art. Science will also be a focal point of the topic. The children will explore areas such

as plant reproduction, life cycles, food chains and habitats. As you can see from our pictures and Twitter, we are already well on our way with our learning journeys.

Please feel free to bring in any relevant resources that you feel may be beneficial to our topic!



# Upper KS2 Autumn 1 Newsletter

## Attendance

Regular attendance is essential to ensure uninterrupted progress and to enable children to exceed their potential. We actively involve the children in achieving this by holding weekly assemblies with a reward for each class who has 100% attendance. Certificates are awarded termly and yearly for all children who achieve 100%. With these rewards in place, the children wholeheartedly strive to be part of the winning class and the support of each other is a pleasure to see; please support your child and ensure they are regular attenders.

Good attendance is important because: your child needs to be in the academy to be able to learn and achieve; lessons are taught in a sequence and it can be difficult to catch up if a lesson is missed; children need to have relationships with others and to form lasting friendships; it develops a child's confidence to attempt new work and to work alongside others.

**EVERY  
SCHOOL DAY  
COUNTS**

## Pupil Reward Points

### Being in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing!

The reward scheme allows children to earn points for showing 'Green Behaviour' which may consist of trying hard in their work, being courteous and polite (possibly holding a door open), showing respect to others, arriving at school in time for registration and having the correct uniform. Children also earn 5 points if they are picked to celebrate their work in the Thursday 'Star of the Week' assembly. Children additionally earn points through job roles - the wage of points is preparing children for their later life. Children save points and spend them at the academy swap shop. We will keep you updated as to who the current leaders are.



## Remember to keep up to date with us!

@EstcourtYear4\_5  
@EstcourtYear6



Blog: [estcourtprimary.net](http://estcourtprimary.net)

The children love having replies and retweets on our twitter accounts. A huge thank you to all of the families and friends that have followed us! Please continue to encourage our children by replying and commenting on our tweets.

## Purple Mash

We encourage the children to use Purple Mash. It is a learning tool which supports learning through fun games relating to Computing, History, Geography, Science, Maths, Literacy as well as PSHE and Celebrations and Faiths.

Children have been provided with a log in and password, if you have any queries about Purple Mash, please ask your child's teacher.

## Writing

The Meerkats, Tigers and Eagles will focus their writing using 'survival' as their stimulus.

The Meerkats will be using Bear Grylls and the Maze Runner series books to inspire their writing. The Tigers will be using The Journey to the Centre of the Earth and Life of Pi as a stimulus. The Eagles will be using Bear Grylls: Rage of the Rhino and the Bear Grylls autobiography, Mud Sweat and Tears,

Big Writing each Friday allows the children to produce an independent piece of extended writing, to 'show off' what they know and have learnt.

There is an **additional** 30 minutes allocated to spelling strategies 4 times a week followed by a Friday spelling test.

We also have a daily guided reading session in which children do a range of activities such as focused work with the teacher, comprehension, phonics tasks and the use of ICT.

Your child has a home reading book. This book is appropriate for the level your child is secure at and is classed as an 'easy read' to give them confidence and help with their comprehension. We ask for you to write comment in your child's reading journal based on how they read and find the text. Reading books are changed once a week.



## Maths

We have daily Maths sessions. The Meerkats, Tigers and Eagles are learning to get better at **reasoning** within the Maths. This enables the children to explain how they get their answers and explores their investigative skills. It is an essential skill to have! One way to help children use their reasoning skills is high order questioning, such as:

Justify your reasoning....

Explain how you know...

Do you agree that...?

Compare...

Invent...

Create...



We also have weekly arithmetic papers on a Friday to test our mental maths knowledge so we recommend plenty of times tables practise while at home.

## Reading

To promote *reading for pleasure*, we have reinstated Bug Club !

Bug Club is a fantastic online resource that allows reading to be interactive and exciting. It takes children on a personalised reading journey where the only limits are their imaginations. Not only does it allow children to read a range of books online, but it also delivers comprehension style questioning to promote children's understanding of the books that they have read.

All children should have been provided with usernames and passwords for the website. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher if you require another copy.

[www.activelearnprimary.co.uk](http://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk)

*Hint!* Reading on Bug Club also counts as 'a read' in the children's Home Reading Journal.



### P.E. / Sport

#### PE



The Meerkats are focussing on basketball and gymnastics. Tigers will be learning the skills needed for netball and hockey. Eagles will be focusing on athletics and gymnastics.

Any children who have their ears pierced must have them covered or removed for PE. Please send your child with something for them to cover their ears with e.g. medical tape or plasters.

**Outdoor PE shoes are essential for the safety of your child.**

Meerkats - Wednesday & Thursdays (Outdoor)

Tigers - Monday & Friday (Outdoor)

Eagles - Tuesday (Outdoors) and Friday

### Homework

Homework will be set each week.

It will consist of:

- Maths: this goes out on a Friday and is to be completed by the following Friday.
- Spellings to be practised in preparation for a weekly spelling test every Friday.
- Reading: each child will have their own reading book, which they will need to practise at home. Children are required to read 4 x a week at home.
- Talk Homework: this goes out on a Wednesday and is to support the children with their big write on the Friday.

**Ensuring this is completed every week, children will be rewarded with a reward trip at the end of the term!**