



Expectations and Requirements for September 2026



Dear Children and Parents/Carers,

I am looking forward to welcoming you to SQUIRRELS CLASS 2026! Squirrels' lessons will start at 8:30 a.m so we ask that children are in class for 8.25 a.m. You may come into school from 8:15 a.m. The school day finishes for us at 3:00 p.m. Children enter through the front entrance of school and we will dismiss children from the front entrance.

Well-being

We will have plenty of time for talking and participating in activities to think about our mental health well-being. We will continue to use our mental health check-in so that all of you know that we are here to talk to you whenever you need us to.

Class dojos

Class dojo's will continue to be used to reward children in their learning. The child who receives the highest dojo points at the end of the week receives a token for their house. Each class will be given a reward when they reach 500 or 1000 points – last year the children chose to do baking for one of these rewards.

Star charts

We will also be using star charts. Children may colour in a star when any member of staff awards them one. These are for keeping our school values of Love, Hope, Courage and Forgiveness. Once the star charts are completed children will take them to Miss Priestley and receive a reward.

Classroom expectations

In Squirrels Class we have high expectations and an excellent commitment to our learning. Below, are some of the expectations and requirements for every child in Squirrels Class:

Pencil cases

Every child should bring a pencil case to school which could include colouring pencils. If you cannot afford a pencil case please let Miss Priestley know and we will fund one for your child. I will provide a hand writing pencil, blue pen, purple pen and highlighter for everyone. However, if children have a particular pen that they like to use they may bring this in to use as long as it has blue ink and they write neatly with it.

Bags

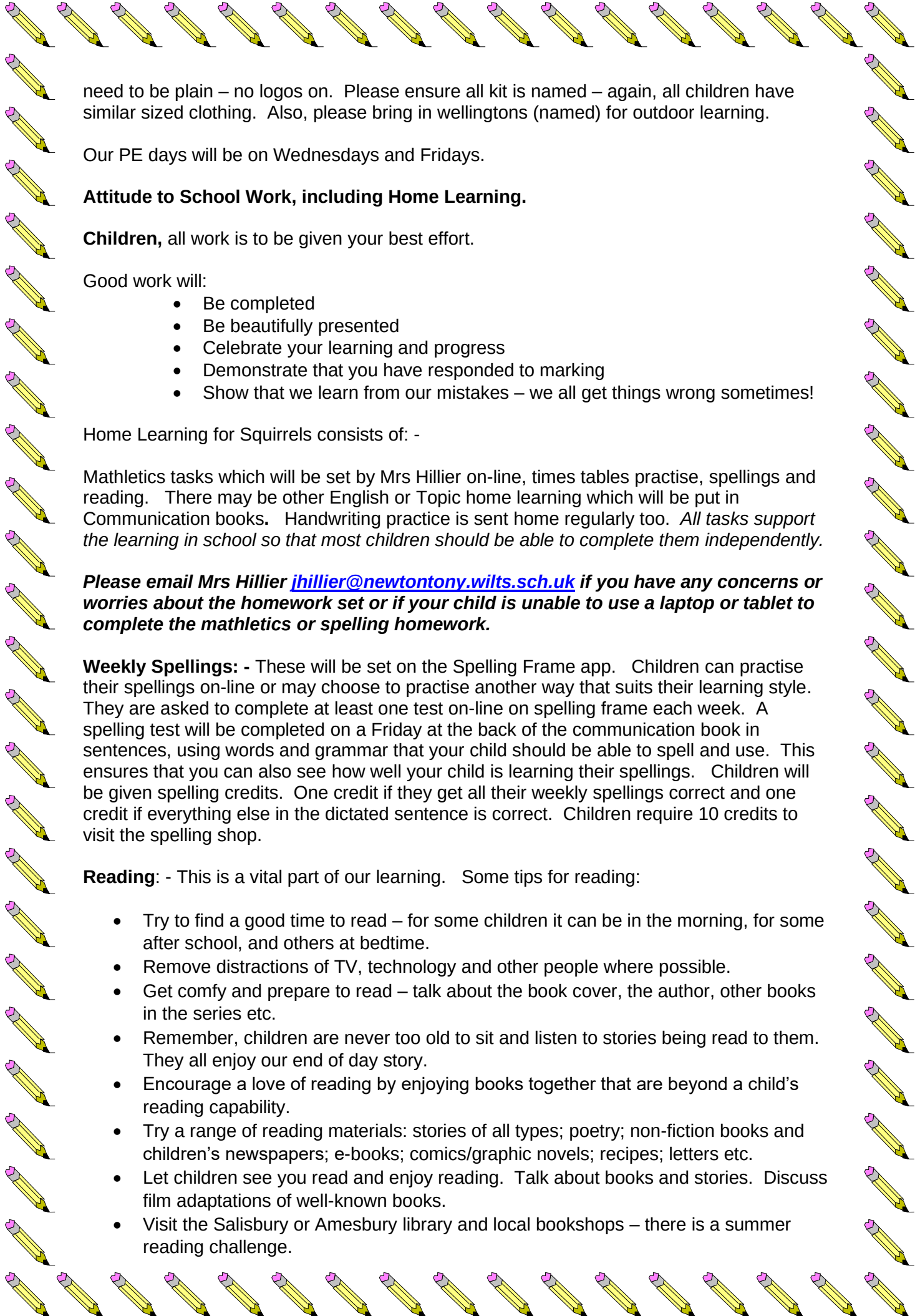
All children have a locker to keep their belongings in and backpacks do not fit in these.

Please do not send your child to school with a backpack. Please remember to bring your book bag or folder to school every day with your school reading book and communication book in.

Uniform and PE Kit:-

Our Newton Tony Primary School uniform must be worn at all times, unless it is a PE/Games day or another 'pre authorised' occasion. Please remember that all Squirrels Class may be wearing the same size jumper so it **must** be clearly **named** so that we can return it to the correct child! School shoes should be black and in the summer ankle support sandals may be worn. Socks or tights must be either black or grey. Trainers are only to be worn for PE/Games lessons. If you would like to purchase a school tie please ask at the school office.

We are continuing to ask children to wear PE kit consisting of a purple T-shirt, black shorts or skort and sensible trainers to school on PE days. For colder days a pair of plain black jogging bottoms or black leggings and sweater may be required. These items of clothing



need to be plain – no logos on. Please ensure all kit is named – again, all children have similar sized clothing. Also, please bring in wellingtons (named) for outdoor learning.

Our PE days will be on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Attitude to School Work, including Home Learning.

Children, all work is to be given your best effort.

Good work will:

- Be completed
- Be beautifully presented
- Celebrate your learning and progress
- Demonstrate that you have responded to marking
- Show that we learn from our mistakes – we all get things wrong sometimes!

Home Learning for Squirrels consists of: -

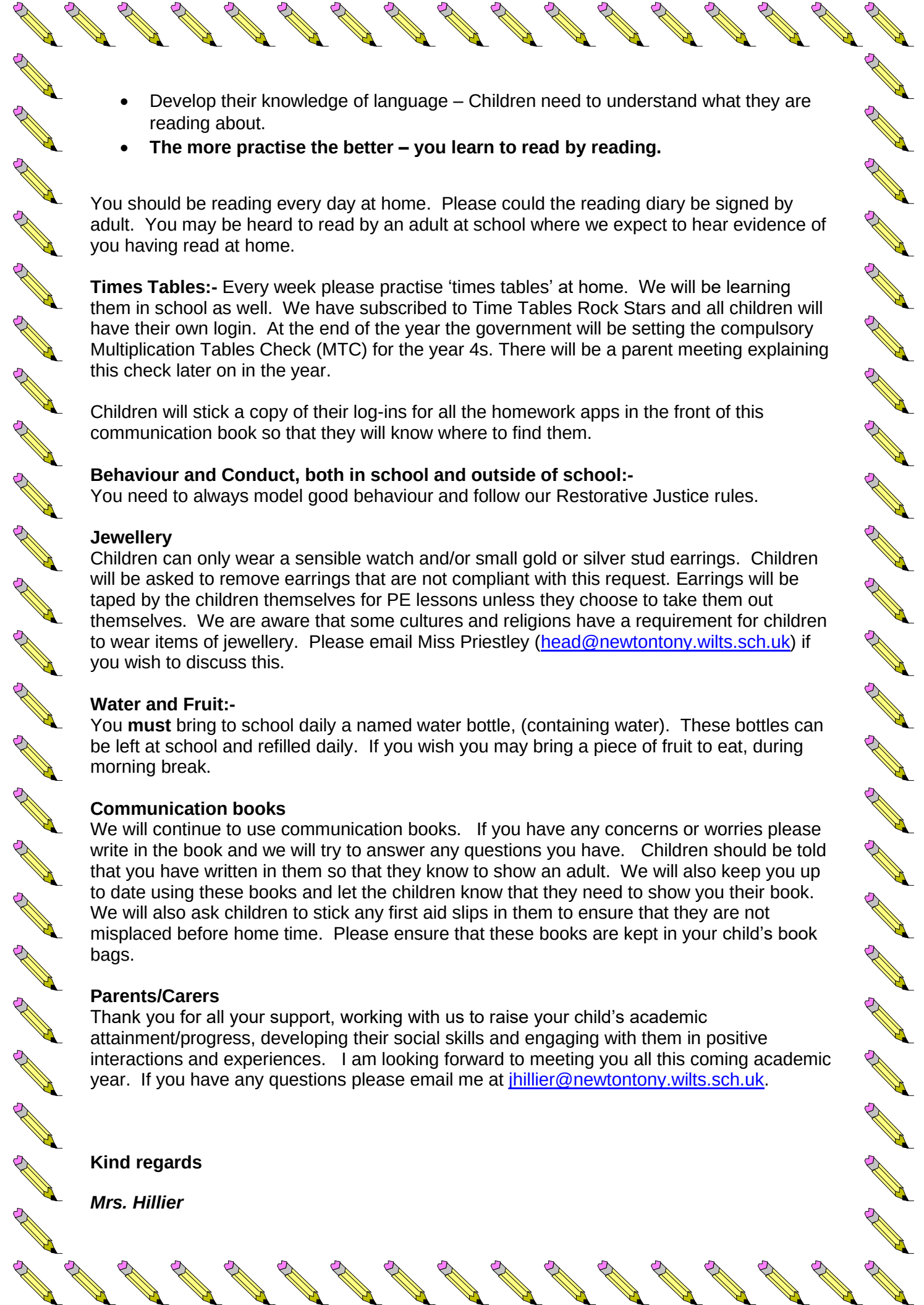
Mathletics tasks which will be set by Mrs Hillier on-line, times tables practise, spellings and reading. There may be other English or Topic home learning which will be put in Communication books. Handwriting practice is sent home regularly too. *All tasks support the learning in school so that most children should be able to complete them independently.*

Please email Mrs Hillier jhillier@newtontony.wilts.sch.uk if you have any concerns or worries about the homework set or if your child is unable to use a laptop or tablet to complete the mathletics or spelling homework.

Weekly Spellings: - These will be set on the Spelling Frame app. Children can practise their spellings on-line or may choose to practise another way that suits their learning style. They are asked to complete at least one test on-line on spelling frame each week. A spelling test will be completed on a Friday at the back of the communication book in sentences, using words and grammar that your child should be able to spell and use. This ensures that you can also see how well your child is learning their spellings. Children will be given spelling credits. One credit if they get all their weekly spellings correct and one credit if everything else in the dictated sentence is correct. Children require 10 credits to visit the spelling shop.

Reading: - This is a vital part of our learning. Some tips for reading:

- Try to find a good time to read – for some children it can be in the morning, for some after school, and others at bedtime.
- Remove distractions of TV, technology and other people where possible.
- Get comfy and prepare to read – talk about the book cover, the author, other books in the series etc.
- Remember, children are never too old to sit and listen to stories being read to them. They all enjoy our end of day story.
- Encourage a love of reading by enjoying books together that are beyond a child's reading capability.
- Try a range of reading materials: stories of all types; poetry; non-fiction books and children's newspapers; e-books; comics/graphic novels; recipes; letters etc.
- Let children see you read and enjoy reading. Talk about books and stories. Discuss film adaptations of well-known books.
- Visit the Salisbury or Amesbury library and local bookshops – there is a summer reading challenge.

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- Develop their knowledge of language – Children need to understand what they are reading about.
 - **The more practise the better – you learn to read by reading.**

You should be reading every day at home. Please could the reading diary be signed by adult. You may be heard to read by an adult at school where we expect to hear evidence of you having read at home.

Times Tables:- Every week please practise ‘times tables’ at home. We will be learning them in school as well. We have subscribed to Time Tables Rock Stars and all children will have their own login. At the end of the year the government will be setting the compulsory Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) for the year 4s. There will be a parent meeting explaining this check later on in the year.

Children will stick a copy of their log-ins for all the homework apps in the front of this communication book so that they will know where to find them.

Behaviour and Conduct, both in school and outside of school:-

You need to always model good behaviour and follow our Restorative Justice rules.

Jewellery

Children can only wear a sensible watch and/or small gold or silver stud earrings. Children will be asked to remove earrings that are not compliant with this request. Earrings will be taped by the children themselves for PE lessons unless they choose to take them out themselves. We are aware that some cultures and religions have a requirement for children to wear items of jewellery. Please email Miss Priestley (head@newtontony.wilts.sch.uk) if you wish to discuss this.

Water and Fruit:-

You **must** bring to school daily a named water bottle, (containing water). These bottles can be left at school and refilled daily. If you wish you may bring a piece of fruit to eat, during morning break.

Communication books

We will continue to use communication books. If you have any concerns or worries please write in the book and we will try to answer any questions you have. Children should be told that you have written in them so that they know to show an adult. We will also keep you up to date using these books and let the children know that they need to show you their book. We will also ask children to stick any first aid slips in them to ensure that they are not misplaced before home time. Please ensure that these books are kept in your child’s book bags.

Parents/Carers

Thank you for all your support, working with us to raise your child’s academic attainment/progress, developing their social skills and engaging with them in positive interactions and experiences. I am looking forward to meeting you all this coming academic year. If you have any questions please email me at jhillier@newtontony.wilts.sch.uk.

Kind regards

Mrs. Hillier