

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back as we enter our third and last term in Year 1. We hope you had an excellent holiday together and are ready for an exciting learning time ahead! Sports Day with our family style picnic on June 25th, Scoot Fit on July 5th and our Sensory garden special events week of 8th July are just some of the exciting foci we have planned.

Curriculum Information

Our topic for this term is 'Changes,' using plants and their environment to develop and explore ideas. British values focus will be linked to the rule of law and tolerance for others with different faiths and beliefs throughout all areas of our school day. In science we will learn about what plants need to stay alive and try to grow our own. We will also learn how to conduct an experiment by exploring different conditions and how they affect plants growth. The children will be developing both their laptop and iPad skills as they research and record their findings.

Maths will include using their knowledge and understanding of place value and number facts to solve problems, suggesting extensions of 'What if I...' and 'What could I do next?' explaining their methods and reasoning as we encourage them towards the most efficient method. We will be using multiples of two, five and ten in solving one step problems involving both multiplication and division. We will be using concrete objects, pictorial representations and arrays to support their developing skills. Being able to recognise and know different denominations of coins and notes will help the children as they continue the challenge of learning how to solve mathematical money problems. Please provide your child with opportunities to experience money.

We will be continuing our daily phonic lessons in support of the children acquiring their necessary life skills. The official phonic testing will happen during the month of June. The children have already been supported in being able to take part in these assessments via individual challenge time and opportunities to showcase and celebrate their learning - earning a sticker of course!

Bespoke flashcards will continue to be used to support additional phoneme help for those 'tricky for now,' moments they may be experiencing. Please use these as a daily reinforcement alongside their reading book. Your comments in their reading record and active support are invaluable in developing their skills. A minimum of 10 minutes a day of them reading to you and then a story to conclude the day would be ideal. Your child will read regularly throughout the school week. The person who hears them could be a teacher, learning support staff, or volunteer. Additionally, the children will have a guided reading session with me once a week. Clear and easy to read handwriting is a key priority of our class as it supports their ability to communicate effectively. It has its own specific sessions and we celebrate achievement to reinforce this at all opportunities.

Year 1 grammar is the perfect time to ensure they have the skills of using full stops and capital letters to demarcate sentences, using capital letters for proper names, using 'and' to join sentences. Question marks and exclamation marks have also been introduced.

Our weekly spelling challenges will continue, as these are a routine throughout each year group. All children will be tested every **Friday** and then given new spellings to share with you at home. Please support your child in practicing the writing of them.

Gymnastics, athletics and games skills are our main PE foci this term. One main PE session will be on a Thursday, with additional mini sessions during the week to develop our fundamental skills further. To enable us to take advantage of the weather please make sure your child has a **PE kit in school all week**. Please include leggings or tracksuit bottoms with a warm top and trainers to ensure we can still access the outside area.

Our current home learning challenge is their phonics games booklet; please continue recording both the frequency of play and success achieved. This will provide invaluable support for their phonics testing in June.

Important Dates (Others will be posted on the school website)

Bank Holiday Monday: Monday 6th May

Half term: Monday 27th May - Friday 31st May

Sports Day: Tuesday 25th June

School Closes: Friday 12th July

Finally, our doors are always open for discussions with parents both before and after school, either informally or by appointment. Additionally if there are any changes as to who is collecting your child at the end of the day please notify the office or myself.

Looking forward to our busy and exciting term of learning this Summer.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Smith

Some websites to help at home

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/literacy>

<https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk>

<http://bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/maths>