

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a pleasant Easter holiday and managed to enjoy lots of family time together with your children. I would like to thank you all for your support during the transition between Mrs Steere and myself in the final two weeks of last term. The children have settled into their new routines well and have been very excited to hear about the arrival of baby Steere!

If you have any questions or anything you wish to discuss with me, please feel free to approach me on the playground at the end of the school day or arrange a time to pop in and see me.

The children in Year one will be working towards their phonics test this term and below is a brief overview of the sounds they will need to know. Practice little and often, just five minutes a day makes a huge difference and their confidence will grow too. We will continue to have phonics everyday with Reception and Year one children.

### **Phonics**

The children will continue learning new sounds in their phonics groups each week. The Year 1 children will be taking their Phonics test during June, I have put all the sounds that will be in the test below so that you are able to spend time practising these regularly (in real and nonsense words) with your children. To achieve their ELG in reading, Year R children should be able to read all the Phase 3 sounds.

**Phase 3 sounds** – qu, ch, sh, th, ng, ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air, ure, er

**Phase 5 sounds** – ay, ou, ie, ea, oy, ir, ue, aw, wh, ph, ew, oe, au, a-e, e-e, i-e, o-e, u-e

**New pronunciations for known graphemes:** i (fin, find), o (hot, cold), c (cat, cent), g (got, giant), u (but, put (in south of England), ow (cow, blow), ie (tie, field), ea (eat, bread), er (farmer, her), a (hat, what), y (yes, by, very), ch (chin, school, chef), ou (out, shoulder, could, you)

### **Literacy**

We will read a wide variety of different books this term, both fiction and non-fiction focusing on animals and space. This links to our science and history topics too.

All the children will be:

- writing longer sentences using some conjunctions.
- using full stops and capital letters correctly. Year 1 children will be learning about question and exclamation marks.
- practising forming letters correctly.
- listening to the sounds in the words they want to write.
- finding words they know in a word bank or on the wall.
- putting a space between each word.
- finding a purpose for writing in their play (shopping lists, police reports etc). The children often produce some wonderful independent writing in their play and do enjoy sharing their work with me.

### **Maths**

The children will be covering a lot of different areas of Maths this term through adult led activities and their continuous provision. These include:

- counting, properties of numbers and number sequences.
- adding and subtracting to 20 and then to 100.

- finding missing numbers through inverse operations.
- number bonds to 10 and 20.
- direction and position.
- comparing mass and length.
- telling the time (o'clock & times of day).

### **Afternoon Curriculum**

The children will be learning a variety of skills through written work in our afternoon subjects and accessing continuous provision. Continuous provision allows the children to develop their skills in each area and really show their new found knowledge!

RE	What do Christians believe God is like? Judaism
ICT	Paint and coding using beebots
Science	Animals
Humanities (1 <sup>st</sup> ½ term)	Continents
Humanities (2 <sup>nd</sup> ½ term)	Space
Art/DT	Mother Nature the Designer
PE	Playground games
PSHCE	Friendships (How to be a good friend)

This half term the children will have cookery on a Friday afternoon with Mrs Mussell and begin Forest School after May half term with Mrs Rosello and Mrs South.

### **P.E.**

PE lessons will take place on **Thursday** afternoons. The children will be learning lots of new playground games followed by yoga with Mrs Mussell who has done a fabulous job teaching the children lots of new yoga positions, helping them build core strength. The children really do look forward to P.E and both Mrs Mussell and I have enjoyed watching their progress. Please ensure that your child has their correct P.E. kit in school and that everything is labelled. The children will leave their kits at school and bring them home at half term.

### **Reading books**

**It is really important to read daily with your child and discuss the book with them.**

Please sign the reading diary to let us know how that is going. Little and often is key. Children who do this, make huge progress and do enjoy sharing their love of books with us. Please do feel free to read your own books from home alongside school reading books.

### **Homework update**

Mathletics is set on a Tuesday and must be completed by the following **Monday**.

Spelling books must be returned to school every **Monday morning** for homework to be marked and for the children to complete their weekly spelling test.

Rainbow words are handed in on a **Wednesday**.

Mathletics link: <http://uk.mathletics.com/signin/>

### **Year 1 only**

Bug Books, which focus on your child's comprehension skills will continue this term. Children will have two weeks to complete Bug Books so these will be given on a **Tuesday** and expected to be returned on the **Monday 2 weeks later**.

### **Labelling**

Please ensure that all belongings (even sunhats and socks!) are clearly labelled with your child's name. This both helps your child to recognise their name and locate their own belongings, but also enables misplaced items to be easily identified and returned! It is of huge benefit to us all when items are labelled and saves massive amounts of time.

### **Show and Tell**

A new rota for show and tell is attached to this letter. Please remind your child to bring one item only.

### **Stationery**

Thank you for all the generous donations of stationery from last term. The children do put everything to good use, in particular whiteboard pens where they have been demonstrating their new love for writing during continuous provision on our mini whiteboards. I have seen football scores, shopping lists and treasure maps! All fantastic examples of independent writing. Therefore, stationery for class 1 is very much appreciated as it enables the children to develop skills they will use in many years to come. Please continue to send in any donations, for example extra glue sticks, whiteboard pens, high quality pencils or rubbers. If you happen to see any going cheap in the supermarkets or have any spare at home, then please send them in.

### **Helpers needed please**

Finally, thank you to all our volunteers who have come in each week to listen to children read during the year. This enables all children to read aloud at least once a week with an adult to support them. If there any parents who have any spare time to come in and hear children read or support in lessons, I would greatly appreciate any offers. Please just let me know if you are available - anything from 15 minutes to an hour to a whole afternoon will be of great help!

I look forward to watching your children continue to develop during the summer term.

Mrs Thomson, Class 1 Teacher.