

Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome back to school. I hope you have all had a well-rested Christmas holiday with your families. Thank you for your wonderful cards and gifts. It was lovely to read and reflect on all your messages over the break and I look forward to watching the children develop in confidence over the coming weeks.

In this letter you will find an overview of the work that your child will be completing during this term. **Please do continue to support your children at home with their learning in as many creative ways as possible!**

Remember 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 day or arrange a time to see me. If your child needs a little extra TLC due to a wobble, please do inform the office who will get a message to me as soon as possible and relevant staff will support your child to settle into class. Mrs South will continue to teach the class on Fridays.

### **Phonics**

The children have now been split into flexible ability groups for phonics and will receive a daily phonics lesson to help improve their reading, spelling and writing. The Year 1 spellings for the week will correspond with the sounds that your child has been learning in phonic sessions, so please don't worry if your child has different spellings to somebody else in the class. Year R children will be sent home with a list of high frequency words this term. **They will not be set spelling homework but it would be useful to help your child learn to read some these words over the course of the year.** Please just start with the one or two letter words, such as, I, am, at etc. Do not worry about this as we will use many of these words in class. You can support your child by making the words from magnetic letters or playdough. Writing them in coloured chalk is always a favourite! **Thank you for all your support from home - it makes a huge difference to the children's confidence and progress.**

### **Literacy**

We will be reading lots of different stories about African animals (e.g. Handa's Surprise, Handa's Hen) and looking at non-fiction books this term.

The children will be:

- writing simple sentences (Year 1 working hard to use correct punctuation and spelling)
- practising their letter formation
- 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
- using full stops and capital letters for simple sentences
- writing captions and labels

### **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:

#### **Year 1**

- Place value.
- Adding and subtracting to 20, 50 and 100.
- Finding more or less than 20, 50 or 100.
- Number bonds beyond ten and up to 20 (i.e. pairs of numbers to make 10 like 4 and 6, or to make 20 like 13 and 7).

### Year R children will be focusing on

- Place value.
- Adding and subtracting numbers up to 5 and 10 using counting toys.
- Sorting objects into sets by size, colour and shape.
- Spatial awareness, 2D and 3D shape.

### Afternoon Curriculum

RE	What is the Good News that Jesus Brings?
ICT	Introducing the iPad and Chrome Books to open a simple programme. Coding.
Science	Materials and Living Things
Humanities (1 <sup>st</sup> ½ term)	Kenya
Humanities (2 <sup>nd</sup> ½ term)	Nelson Mandela
Art/DT	Puppets/ Patterns in buildings
PE	Gymnastics
PSHCE	Jigsaw: Celebrating our Differences, Dreams and Goals

### PE

This term Class 1 will have a whole PE afternoon on **Thursdays**. Please ensure that your child has their correct PE 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 to discuss the book with them.** Please sign the reading diary when you hear them read. Reading books are changed weekly but please do come in and change them if you would like more! **Please do pop your child's reading record and any books they have finished in their book bag so we can award house points for home reading.** Reading at home is vital in helping your child develop confidence in sounding out and blending words together. Just 5 minutes a day is of huge benefit to your child and gives them an opportunity to show off all they have learnt in phonics!

### Homework Update

As we are now in the second term, **all children in Class 1** will be set a Maths activity on Mathletics to complete each week this term. Passwords were given to parents at parents' evening but please do come and see me if you would like a new one. Year 1 children will continue to have spellings on Mondays as part of their phonics sessions. **All home learning will be set on a Tuesday and needs to be completed by the following Monday.**

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

### Year 1 Only

Spellings will go home in a purple spelling book where children must 'look, cover, write and check' 3 times to practise each word throughout the week.

Year 1 children must also now spend at least 10-15 minutes writing their spellings into sentences each week.

**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.**

Bug Books, which focus on your child's reading comprehension skills, will continue this term. Children will have two weeks to complete their Bug Books so these will be **given out on a Tuesday and expected to be returned on the Monday, 2 weeks later.** Your child will come home with a list of *common exception words* this term. These are words that they are expected to know by the end of Year 1. Although we do look at these during phonics, **please do support your child by trying to learn two or three a week.** This benefits their writing and confidence. These

words will be sent home in bug book bags. **Please do tick/date the words you have had a go at learning and I will award house points by signing and dating.**

### **Water Bottles**

Please ensure that your child brings a **named** and filled water bottle into school with them each day so that they can drink regularly throughout the day. We had many children who did not have a water bottle at the end of last term and they found this distressing. Although we have spares, they often like their own familiar bottle. This will be sent home at the end of each day so that it can be washed and returned to school again the following morning. We request that these drink bottles contain water only, which is not only better for children's teeth, but can cause limited damaged to other items if the contents get spilt.

### **Labelling**

Please ensure that all belongings (uniform, coats, lunch boxes, book bags, snack boxes, water bottles etc) are clearly labelled with your child's name. This not only helps your child to recognise their name and locate their own belongings, but also enables misplaced items to be easily identified and returned!

### **Show and Tell**

Show and tell will be on a Tuesday. Any children may bring in an item of educational value or something they have made (no toys please as they often get lost or broken resulting in lots of tears). It is wonderful when a child brings in a picture/writing they have done or a model to share! Books related to our learning are very welcome too. Some children simply like to share some news which is very welcome.

### **Stationery**

Please continue to send in any donations of stationery for use in Class 1. We really appreciate any donations of extra glue sticks, whiteboard pens, high quality pencils or rubbers, as they keep our forever-dwindling stocks topped up. 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**

Thank you to all our regular parent helpers. Your support allows all the children in the class to read with an adult (teacher, teaching assistant or parent helper) at least once a week which is fantastic!

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. KS2 classes also require some help with reading so if you are interested in supporting some of the older children in the school please come and speak to me. If you are available, anything from 15 minutes, an hour, or a whole afternoon would be of great help!

We are all looking forward to the term ahead.

Mrs Thomson and the Class 1 team.