

Year 1 Spring 2024

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Welcome back! We hope you have had a lovely Christmas break and have enjoyed lots of rest and quality family time.

Year 1 learning

As always, we aim to make as much of our learning as possible first-hand experiences, and we will be getting out and about around the village and in the woodland as well as working in the classroom!

In Science this term we will be using our seasonal knowledge to explore seasonal change with a focus on the temperature and weather and how these change throughout the seasons. Our English topic book 'The Rabbit Problem' explores the different problems a rabbit encounters during the different seasons, ensuring lots of cross curricular reading and writing.

In Maths we will be looking at addition and subtraction strategies within 10 using various representations. We will then progress to look at the composition of number between 11 and 19.

We have new topics in the spring term in Geography and History. In geography, linking with our science work, we will be observing weather patterns and learning scientific weather vocabulary to present our own weather forecast. It would be great if you could watch different weather forecast programmes with your children at home, so they see this in day-to-day life! Towards the end of Spring 1 and into Spring 2, history lessons will explore how toys have changed over the years. The children will enjoy lots of hands-on learning, looking at the different materials used and comparing similarities and differences to the toys they play with today. If you have any old toys that you would be happy to share with the children for them to use in the classroom, that would be fabulous!

We are hoping to visit the Castle Museum in York in Spring 2 (depending on coach costs) to further develop our hands on experiences of this exciting topic. Children will take a trip back in time and rediscover some popular toys from the past. Bikes, bath toys, computer games, Lego and beautiful handmade dolls are among the toys on show from the last 150 years.

In PE we will be learning and practising gymnastic skills. **P.E. lessons will now be on a Wednesday.** This term the children will have the expertise of Ben our specialist PE teacher. Please can children ensure they have their PE kits in school ready for Wednesday's lesson.

Homework

Our homework this term will continue to be focused on our phonics learning in the classroom following Little Wandle. Weekly homework will outline the new graphemes and tricky words children have covered in that week. It is very beneficial to review these sounds and words at home to help consolidate new learning.

Maths homework will also be sent home fortnightly, again relating to the children's learning in the classroom so you have a flavour of our current topics and can share these at home. Homework will be sent out on Fridays. Please could completed homework be returned by the following **Thursday**. Thank you.

A Creative Curriculum

As always, we aim to make our curriculum as creative and engaging as we possibly can and aim to foster a love for learning by having a focus on practical, creative and active tasks wherever possible so that the children enjoy and remember activities. We are extremely lucky to have the use of our fabulous Woodland, which links perfectly to many of our scientific topics this upcoming term. We continue to have a woodland slot **every other Friday** but will be using the Woodland regularly whenever we can. Please ensure your child's woodland kit and wellies are in school and are named.

Reading

As you will know, the children have 3 class reading sessions a week where they focus on using phonics for decoding and on developing fluency, prosody (expression) and comprehension. Reading is a huge part of your child's development and is vital to support the phonic skills they are learning in school. Please continue to read with your child at home and remember this is not restricted to school reading books.

As discussed in our Phonics Information Evening, Sharing Stories will be swapped every Thursday/Friday in school. These books are to share with your child and not for your child to read independently but together, predominantly read by an adult. We aim to create a love of reading and books, so sharing a book promotes an opportunity to talk in depth about the story, characters, and children's predictions/interests.

Close phonic assessments mean we link your children's direct phonetical knowledge with the correct level ECollins book. This will be released every Friday into your online library. Unfortunately, when we have been tracking the use of this facility, we can see not many families are utilising this resource. Small daily 5-minute reads are essential for reading progression, so we would strongly encourage you to listen to your child read their allocated Ebook. If you have trouble accessing this, please get in touch as soon as possible.

Please can we try our hardest to return sharing stories every **Thursday/Friday** and to bring your children's reading record in every **Thursday** for the weekly stamping after their third 'in school' read.

Once again, a huge thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes,

Mrs Robinson and Mrs Peters.