

Year 1 Newsletter

Friday 1st February 2019

Dear Parent / Carer,

As part of our work on traditional tales in Literacy this week, we have enjoyed using the story of 'Jack and the Beanstalk' as the basis for our learning. Building on the work that the children did in Reception, we have focused in detail on characters and setting, as well as exploring the use of story language (e.g. Once upon a time, When, Quick as a flash, Suddenly, Finally) to sequence events. Next week, we will



begin to plan and write our own version of the story in groups. During the next two weeks, we will focus on the beginning, middle and end of the story, adding our own magical object that Jack took from the castle. To support your child with this, you could discuss possible objects that Jack might find and what the object might do (e.g. a magic box that makes gold every time you open it).

In Phonics lessons this week, we have learnt the alternative spellings for **'air'** which are **'ear'** like in bear and **'are'** like in share. We have also learnt the alternatives for **'oo'**: **'ew'** like in screw, **'ue'** like in blue and **'ue'** like in cube.

In Numeracy this week, we have introduced division. Pupils have worked practically to solve a range of problems but we have been impressed by the number of pupils who have made links between the 2, 5, and 10 times tables. Well done and keep practising! Next week, we will be introducing fractions by finding half of whole objects and groups of objects.

In our CCL topic work, we have completed and tested our 'clown cars'. We evaluated how successful they were and what we would do next time to improve them. We are going to begin the Science element of our Circus topic which will involve investigations around materials and their properties.

Thank you to those parents who were able to make it to our Open Door session on Wednesday. We will let you know the date for the next session as soon as possible.

On the reverse of this letter, there are some top tips for supporting your child with joining their handwriting. We will encourage your child to join when we think they have mastered the school handwriting style – you will see in their Spelling Book when they have begun to join.

Many Thanks

Year One team

Joined Handwriting

In Year 1 we are now learning how to join our handwriting. Here are some tips to help your child at home:

1. We never join to a capital letter
2. We always wait until we have finished the word before dotting the letter **i** or crossing the letter **t**
3. Letters that finish at the bottom, on the line, join from the bottom. Letters that finish at the top then join into the next letter from the top/horizontally. Some examples:

Bottom joins:

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Top (horizontal) joins:

O r v w

e.g. rope wow vote

The letters **x** and **z** do not join to other letters as **x** requires you to lift off your pencil regardless and **z** can become tricky to read if joined. In Year 1, we avoid joining the letter **r** as it can look like an **n** if not joined correctly.

Your child's handwriting needs to be accurate before they can begin joining. They must write with a clear difference between tall (ascending) letters and short letters. Capital letters must be the biggest letter in the word. They must remember their 'whoops' (entry stroke) and their 'flick' (exit stroke) to be ready to join.