

Year 1 Newsletter

Friday 20th September 2019

Dear Parent / Carer,

During Literacy lessons this week, we began a new narrative unit of work based on the book 'Peter's Pebbles' by Cherie Zamazing. The children all painted their own pebble animals and wrote about what they would do, just like Peter did in the story. Next week, we will be reading the book 'Monstersaurus' by Claire Freedman. We will make predictions, sequence the events and describe the characters.

In Numeracy this week, we have been finding one more and one less than a number and showing this in lots of different ways. Next week, we will be comparing numbers.



In CCL (cross curricular learning), we have focused on art and geography. We learnt the Primary colours (red, yellow, blue) and Secondary colours (purple, green and orange). The children mixed their own secondary colours which will help them next week when we do some painting in the style of Georges Seurat. We have also found out about each of the four countries that make up the UK. Next week, we will be using maps to locate the capital cities of the United Kingdom and recreate their flags.

This week, 1E thoroughly enjoyed their first swimming lesson! From Tuesday 24th September, both classes will swim each week. In preparation for this, please could we request that children practise dressing and undressing themselves, in order to promote independence and ensure that they have their full allocated time in the swimming pool. For girls, trousers and socks are often easier than skirts and tights. Please can we remind you that for safety reasons, children are not allowed to wear earrings for swimming. They must be removed before the lesson. If your child cannot remove their own earrings, please can you make sure that they do not wear them on a swimming day as they will not be allowed to swim with them in.



Reading Books

We really appreciate your support with helping your child to read. In Year 1, we recommend that your child reads with you every day in order to help them make good progress in their reading. Please don't feel that you have to initial the Reading Diary every day as you may want to keep the book to re-read. It is extremely beneficial for children to re-read books so that they can read them fluently (without having to sound out every word). This also enables them to understand the book better and answer questions about it. We may send home two books with your child. One will be based on the Phonics Stage they are working within, for example: if your child needs to practise the Phase 3 digraphs and trigraphs (two and three letter sounds) then they will need books containing these sounds. However, we don't just want them to rely solely on phonics as their only strategy for reading. Therefore, we will also send home a book that has more of the high frequency words that we have been learning – those that appear often in books and should be read by sight (not sounded out). These may be simple words such as 'put' and 'has' which your child will try to sound out, please encourage them to try and just say the word. Other common exception or 'tricky' words, such as: the, to, no, go, into, said, need to be learnt by sight and cannot be sounded out.

Strategies for Reading

If your child can sound out words to read them and also recognise many words on sight, they are well on their way to becoming great readers! Our aim is to enable them to independently use the following strategies to read unknown words:

1. Look at the initial sound and look at the whole word to see if you can read it without sounding it out.
2. Try to sound it out.
3. Look at the picture for a clue.
4. Read the rest of the sentence to see if that helps.
5. Come back to the word and make a sensible guess.
6. If all the above don't work – ask a grown up!

If your child is still at the early stages of reading, don't worry! Keep sharing books with them. Encourage them to point to each word as you read it for them. At the end of the book, encourage them to go back to the beginning and spot words that they can remember. Always read the book more than once – second and third time round they will hopefully join in with you. Finally, remember to ask questions:

Before reading:

What do you think the book is going to be about?

Who is the author of the book?

Who is the illustrator? (The person that created the pictures)

What kind of book is it? Fiction, non-fiction, poetry.

Can you find a contents or index page?

Is there a blurb? (On the back cover of the book)

During reading:

How is the character feeling?

Why do they feel like that?

Can you think of a time when you have felt the same?

How do you think the book will end?

Can you find a page about...

After reading:

What did you like about the book?

Which was your favourite part?

Can you think of another book that you have read that was similar?

Was the ending a surprise or did you guess it?

Do you have any questions about the book?

What would you ask the author?

Important Dates for your Diaries:

Tuesday 1st and Thursday 3rd October – Parent/Teacher Consultations

Thursday 17th October – Open Door session 2.40pm

Thursday 14th November – Y1 Phonics Information evening for parents 6.00 – 6.30pm

Many Thanks

Year One team