

## Year 1 Newsletter

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Parent / Carer,

In Literacy this week, we completed our first 'Big Write' based on the adventures of Quorb. We were really impressed with the children's ability to write independently. Many of them are now using school handwriting really well and are checking their spellings using the sound mats and sound walls in the classroom – well done! After the holiday, we will be reading the story 'Wow! said the Owl' by Tim Hopgood. We will explore this story with some outdoor learning as we take our class owls around the school playground to see what different things they can see.

In Numeracy, we have continued our work on number bonds to 10. Please encourage your child to practise these so that they can instantly say what two numbers make 10 when added together e.g.  $1+9=10$ ,  $2+8=10$ ,  $3+7=10$ .

We were delighted with the response to our Enterprise Project! We made and sold so many ice lollies and ice pops that we lost count! After the holiday, we will let you know the amount of profit we made and what the children have decided to spend it on.

Within Phonics lessons, we continued to review the phonemes that we have learnt this half term (qu, ck, ch, th, sh, ng, ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ear, air, ure), focusing in particular on words with initial and final consonant clusters (**spring**, **bump**). In class, we often use 'Geraldine the Giraffe' to help us to introduce new phonemes. Short clips featuring Geraldine can be found online at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and then searching 'Geraldine the giraffe learns... e.g. ai, ee'.

Next half term in phonics, we will begin to introduce 'Phase 5' of the Letters and Sounds Phonics Programme, with alternative spelling patterns for the 'ai' phoneme (ai – rain, ay – play, a-e – game, ey – they). When looking at these spelling patterns, we sometimes use rhymes, special names or stories to help the children to remember when they are used:

*ai – 'shy i' doesn't like to be at the end of the word, so we only find this spelling pattern at the beginning or in the middle of words e.g. **aim**, **rain**.*

*ay – 'toughy y' is brave so this spelling pattern is used at the end of words e.g. **play**, **tray** (apart from in certain exceptions eg. **crayon**).*

*a-e – 'hop over e'. The magic 'e' hops over another letter to make the 'a' say its letter name e.g. **make**, **same**.*

Next half term, we will begin our new 'Day and Night' topic. Within this topic, we will learn about:

- Light sources and nocturnal animals in Science
- Day and night around the World in Geography
- The art work of Vincent Van Gogh



On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November, we will be launching our 'Day and Night' topic. On the day, children will need to come in normal uniform but we invite them to bring their pyjamas to change into at school, as well as a favourite book. During the course of the day, we will

discuss examples of light sources, as well as reflecting upon ways in which light is used as a symbol within many faiths.

We would like to congratulate the children for all their hard work this half term – a brilliant start to Year One. We look forward to seeing you all on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November**, when school re-opens.

On **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November**, we are planning to hold a Year One Phonics meeting for parents at 6pm. This will be an opportunity to come and learn about the new spelling patterns/pronunciations of phonemes that we will be introducing over the coming months, along with games/resources that we use to support your child with their learning. If you are able to attend, please complete the attached form and return to school.

*Please remember that school closes to pupils on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October. It will re-open again on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November.*

**Important Dates for your Diaries:**

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November: Day and Night topic launch day (children need to bring pyjamas in a named bag and a favourite book)

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November – Y1 Phonics Information evening for parents 6.00 – 6.30pm

Next Open Door session: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2.40-3.00pm.

Many Thanks  
Year One team



-----  
**Year One Phonics Meeting – Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 6.00 – 6.30pm**

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

I / We **will** be able to attend the Phonics meeting

I / We **will not** be able to attend the Phonics meeting

Signed \_\_\_\_\_