

# Year 1 Newsletter

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Firstly, we would like to say how impressed we were by the number of children accessing last weeks Purple Mash challenge of e-mailing the teacher. We loved hearing about what you all got up to during the weekend! This week's Purple Mash challenge is to complete the 2Do that has been set. You will find this by clicking on the 2Do icon at the top of the page on the left.



During English lessons this week, we have been reading the story 'Paddington's Post' by Michael Bond. At the beginning of the week, Paddington arrived at school with his suitcase and a letter. On closer inspection of the letter, we soon realised that Paddington needed some help with his capital letters and full-stops so we became editors. Next week, will be writing postcards.

In Maths, we have been finding different ways to represent a number through counters, objects, jottings and written digits. Next week, we will be finding one more and one less than a number and showing this in lots of different ways. We will also begin to compare numbers using the language of fewer than, greater than and equal to.



In CCL (cross curricular learning), we have continued with the geography elements of the topic. Using maps, atlases and Google Earth, we have be exploring which countries make up the United Kingdom and locating their capital cities. We have also looked at the flags for each of these countries and had a go at recreating them. The Welsh dragon proved a popular challenge for lots of the Y1 children. Next week, we will be doing art. We will begin by finding out about the Primary colours (red, yellow, blue) and exploring what happens when you mix these together.

## 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 doesn'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?

Many Thanks

Miss Vine and Miss Hepworth