

Year 1 Newsletter

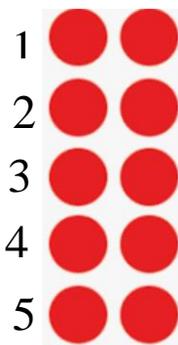
Friday 7th May 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

In English, we have been writing our own fact files about polar bears. Next week, we will be continuing to write fact files about other polar animals. This week in Phonics, we have been revisiting the alternative spelling patterns for the vowel sound /oo/. When spelling, we are encouraging the children to try out the spelling pattern they think it is and then to look at the word and decide if it looks right. If it doesn't, try another way.



In Maths, we have continued to count rows of equal groups of items or pictures and have begun to use the word 'array' to describe this arrangement. The children are all experts now at describing how many are in each row, the number of rows and the total altogether. Using counters and jottings, the children have created their own arrays to show this information and have started to use these to show multiplying by 2. Next week, we will continue with learning the 2x table and make connections with doubling numbers.



There are **2** in each row.

There are **5** rows of spots.

There are **10** spots altogether.

$$2+2+2+2+2 = 10$$

$$5 \text{ groups of } 2 = 10$$

$$5 \times 2 = 10$$

During CCL lessons, we have been focusing on the Geography aspect of our Explorers topic. Y1 should now be experts on the Arctic and Antarctica; remembering that the North Pole is in the Arctic and the South Pole in the Antarctic. They should also know that polar bears live around the North Pole and penguins at the South Pole. Some children may know that Robert Peary was the first person to reach the North Pole. Next week, we will be finding out about the race to the South Pole and the name of the explorer who completed their expedition first.

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 this in their Spelling Book when they have begun to join.

Many Thanks

Miss Vine and Miss Hepworth

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:

abcdefghijklmnopqstu

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.