

Welcome back!

Welcome back after Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. We hope you have had an amazing Christmas. We wish to thank you all for the wonderful gifts which we received. They were very kind and generous. We also took a large number of food items to the food bank and would like to thank you for generosity and support.

The majority of children have come back to school raring to go and have been fabulous on this first week back. This is often the hardest term for them with the memories and excitement of Christmas still fresh and all their new toys waiting to be played with. Days are short, dark and usually wet or icy which means they don't get outside as often as we would like them to. Whilst a bit of snow and rain doesn't pose too much of a threat, ice is different and the position of the school means ice is slow to clear and we would rather avoid nasty falls.

Homework

Reception children please keep practising reading and writing the Set 1 Speed Sounds which are in their homework books. Over the course of the term Reception children will also begin to bring home the Set 2 Speed Sounds to learn e.g. ay, ee, igh etc.

The children in Reception will continue to read simple sentences in their reading books and these will become increasingly longer. Please read as often as you can, it really does make a difference. They will also keep practising writing sentences by hearing the sounds in words, trying to form their letters correctly and remembering finger spaces between their words.

Y1's will need to continue to practise all Set 2 and Set 3 sounds in reading and spelling. At this point in Y1 we wouldn't expect the children to know the correct sound in all their spellings and we still expect to see phonetically plausible attempts (using the same sound but maybe the incorrect version of it). You may feel that you would like to point out some correct spellings especially in the most common words e.g. like, with, there, their, would, could, where, when, what etc. and this is fine as long as it isn't every word.

In their reading they are learning to answer basic questions about what they have read to increase their understanding. In writing they are continuing to find out about a range of fiction and non-fiction writing, trying to include interesting words and extend sentences by adding a joining word. We will also look at common and proper nouns in particular which words need capital letters. In grammar and spelling we will look at prefixes and suffixes like 'un', 'ed', 'er' and 'est' and how these change the meaning of words.

A reminder that free scheme e-books can be found on www.oxfordowl.co.uk which will supplement reading books we send home. Phonics games particularly aimed at word building can be found on www.phonicsplay.co.uk

Maths

Reception children will be continuing to complete work on using numbers to 10 e.g. in addition and subtraction, ordering, finding one more and one less and beginning some work on numbers to 20. They will continue to complete work on shape and measure.

Y1 children will be completing work on addition and subtraction to 20 in lots of different ways, using Numicon, ten frames, partitioning numbers and making 20 by finding the 10's. They will begin to count in 2's, 5's and 10's and begin to work with numbers up to 50.

TOPICS

Our topics for this half term include:-

- Weather, Space, Fantasy (castles, knights, dragons, fairies etc) and Chinese New Year. In Science we will be learning about different materials and their uses. In computing we will be completing some coding work on ScratchJR as well as finding out about giving permission in e-safety work.
- As always we also want to follow the children's interests so new topics or activities are planned for as they arise.
- In RE the children will be finding out about key Old Testament Stories that Jesus would have heard.

Learning Journeys

We will begin to send home some sheets that you can fill in to add to your child's learning journey. The book review and special activity sheets are great and it is always useful to know your views on how you think your child is getting on and anything we can do to improve that. Please ask for new photocopies of the sheets when you need them. We are hoping to hold a 'tea and tapestry evening' very shortly which will give you an opportunity to look at your child's learning journal in an informal setting and add any comments you want about the activities they are completing. Please do keep adding your comments - it is as much your learning journey with your child as it is theirs or ours! There will be another opportunity at the end of this half term to view them again.

PE

PE will take place on a Monday morning and Tuesday afternoon. We have a coach from the School Sports Partnership on a Monday morning to complete multi-skills.

Thank-you once again for the support you give throughout the year. As always if you have any questions please catch us. We look forward to another brilliant term.

Mrs James, Mrs Wilson, Miss Hunter and Miss Young.