

## **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 donations to the food bank which was extremely generous.

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](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk) which will supplement reading books we send home as well as the Bug Club books. We know children are excited to be reading Bug Club books but there are limited numbers of books per level and whilst we want to keep the children challenged we don't want to move them too quickly to levels that are too difficult. Phonics games particularly aimed at word building can be found on [www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://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 are listed below. The learning objectives for the half term can be found under Esh Engineers on Class 1's page on the School Website.

- Esh Engineers - lots of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) activities from the book Rosie Revere Engineer.
- History and Design Technology will focus at Toys and Playgrounds. Look out for some news about our Toy Museum. Geography will look at comparing Esh to a city. Art will look at famous sculptors and we will create our own sculptures in the same style.
- In computing we will be completing some coding work on ScratchJR as well as finding out about giving permission in e-safety work.
- In RE the children will be finding out about which stories from the Bible are special and why.
- As always we also want to follow the children's interests so new topics or activities are planned for as they arise.

## Learning Journeys

We value all of your contributions to the children's learning journeys. The 'Tea and Tapestry' evening was very successful and we will hold another one in the near future (date to be arranged). Please do keep adding your comments by filling in the parent's sheets found on our school website.

## PE

PE will take place on a Monday afternoon and Tuesday morning. We will be using apparatus in Gymnastics on a Tuesday morning. Please have PE kits available for both days.

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.