



Friday 11th September 2020

Dear parents/carers,

The children have made a fantastic start to the year and I am really happy that they have settled so well. Thank you for all your continued support with this transition.

We know parents are always very keen to support their children at home and I hope this letter will be helpful in supporting you to do this. One of the best ways to do this is simply talking with your child about their day and their learning experiences.

I would like to take this opportunity to share expectations regarding homework in Y1. Homework is a great way to re-enforce skills as well as keep you updated with what we are learning in class. Homework will be coming home in a zipped plastic bag. This will make it easier to clean both in school and at home as per guidance.

## **Reading**

Reading is an essential life skill and needs to be practiced regularly for children to make progress. Reading should always be an enjoyable, shared experience where children develop a love of books and stories. Please continue to read and share a range of books with your child, encouraging them to talk about events, characters and illustrations.

Children will be receiving a book that has been carefully matched to their reading ability after completing phonics assessments over the last couple of weeks. In addition to this, reading records will be coming home and are to be signed and dated when you and your child have read. We recommend that you read with your child DAILY. This does NOT need to be the book provided by school.

We suggest that you and your child read the book from school at least 3 times a week, to work on decoding, fluency and understanding (comprehension). Other forms of reading could come from other books at home, newspapers, magazines, instructions/recipes, street names etc.

It is important that you not only read the book aloud but also you talk about the story. Talk about what is happening in the story, how the characters might be feeling, what would you do in that situation, what do you think will happen next etc.

Your child's book will be changed by a member of our Year 1 team once a week, every Friday. Please ensure that your child keeps their reading book in their book bag and brings it into school every Friday to be changed for a new reading book. If your child's reading book is not in their book bag on a Friday, then it will not be changed until the book is returned the following Friday.

Furthermore, we will be completing Guided Reading lessons in school. Children will be divided into ability groups, according to their reading levels. I will choose a set of books for the group I am reading with, that is appropriate to their level. We try to make sure that at the end of each week, each child has had some quality

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reading time with an adult. Sometimes we will recognise that certain children need extra reading support and may arrange that for them. Guided Reading books will stay in school.

## **Phonics**

On a Friday, we will also send home a worksheet with activities based on the sounds we have been working on during the week. These will be easy activities that will consolidate children's knowledge. I will also send home some real words and 'alien' words to practice. You could turn this into a game to play with your child. These sheets should be returned to school inside your child's plastic reading pack.

## **Spellings**

Spellings will be set on a weekly basis and will mainly consist of the Year One common exception words, the first 100 high frequency words and the next 200 high frequency words. These are words that children will come across often in both reading and writing. Spelling lists will be uploaded onto our school website on our class page and I will be doing a spelling 'test' (called Word Work) with children in school to check for gaps in their knowledge. I will not be using the word 'test' because I feel this adds undue stress and worry to the children. It has been explained to the children that it isn't the end of the world if they spell some words wrong as long as they try their best, please reiterate this at home.

## **Half Term Homework**

As Our Curriculum is topic based, we normally set homework activities based on the topic the children have been learning. The children have a wealth of knowledge about the specific topic, as they will have been learning about it throughout the half term. Unfortunately, under the current circumstances with wanting to reduce the amount of things coming into school from home, we will not be setting any half term homework in this term. This will be reviewed at the beginning of the Spring Term.

I hope you will find this information helpful. Please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office with any questions or write them in your child's reading record.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Kind regards,  
Miss Defty

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