



Dear Parents,

We are so pleased to welcome everyone back after the Christmas break, the children were very excited to tell me all about their Christmas and the exciting gifts that they received. The children are really enjoying our new topic of “Brilliant Builders” we are looking at the properties of materials and how those properties influence what a product is used for, by the end of the unit the children are going to design and make a house for a story character that will provide a waterproof shelter.

Our EYFS challenge areas are still proving very popular and the children love getting rainbow stickers, its lovely to see them engage in self-chosen challenges and they are really starting to work at a deeper level now, especially in areas such as construction where the use of design cards has supported them to extend their initial ideas.

Our History topic this term is “How am I making History” the children will be learning about time lines and how we put them into chronological order and how history remembers significant events both within their lifetime and beyond it.

Little Wandle – Phonics / Reading. We will be continuing ‘Little Wandle’ to teach early reading and spellings; the nursery children will be following the Foundation for phonics Little Wandle scheme which focuses on rhyme and alliteration as well as retaining a sentence and will now build in a story focus. The Reception children will be continuing with phase 3 sounds which are when two letters together make one sound such as ship and chick, The year 1’s will continue to learn their phase 5 alternative sounds.

All the children love their Little Wandle reading books which have lots of interesting pictures in them and some exciting vocabulary. Each Thursday your child will bring home a new Little Wandle book which they will have previously read at school and will therefore be familiar with the text. Your child should be able to read their book without any help, but if they cannot read a word, please do support them. The books will be collected on Monday ready to start a new Little Wandle book. Please can you record in your child’s reading record when they have read at home to let us know how they have done. Please make sure they have their book bag and books with them every day.

In addition, your child will bring home another reading book for pleasure to share with you. Spellings for the children in Year 1 will be stuck into their reading record on a Thursday. They also have a small orange book to practice their spellings at home during the week before being tested on them on the following Friday.

In English the children in Reception continue using Talk through Stories to explore books together, we will look at one book for a period of two weeks focusing on developing oracy with the story and then use this to help us to analyse the story and develop a deep understanding of the story as well as learning how to use the stories vocabulary in the correct context. In provision the children are now starting to

use their phonics for writing lists and labels and we will support that in our Birthday themed role play area.

The Year 1 children will continue to learn some of the alternative ways of writing (graphemes) for the sounds already learnt, they have made a great start to learning these phase 5 sounds. We are also trying really hard to learn our high frequency words.

They will also be learning how to punctuate their writing and how to make their writing more interesting by using adjectives and conjunctions.

In Maths the children in EYFS will be focusing on numbers 5-10 and recall of number bonds with lots of practical experiences and hands on learning. The children in Year 1 will be continuing to look at numbers up to and beyond 20 with a focus on teen numbers.

We will continue to follow the Jigsaw PSHE curriculum with the children will be focusing on hopes and dreams and the importance of aspirations.

Monday will be indoor gymnastics, please ensure your child has shorts and T-shirt.

Our PE lessons with Mr. Shimwell, will continue to be on Thursday afternoons. Depending on the weather and activity, the sessions will take place either in our school hall or outside on the playground / school field. Please ensure that your child has both an outdoor PE kit in school which is clearly labelled with their name and a pair of trainers for outdoor PE.

Forest School will continue to be on Tuesday afternoon this half term. Children will need wellies and some old jogging bottoms or waterproof trousers as the weather gets colder. We do have some school waterproofs so please don't buy new ones, but if your child already has some please send them in on a Thursday. Please ensure that they have a winter hat, gloves and coat as they will be outside each week for 40 minutes irrespective of the weather.

Sharing Assembly Please join our sharing assembly every Friday to celebrate the children's achievements, these will be at 2.45pm on a weekly basis. As always, if there is anything you wish to discuss we are always available, please pop in or message us via Dojo.

As always should you have any wow moments at home or special trips/ activities that your child has done at home please send in some details and we will share them with the class, but please discourage your child from show and tell of toys etc., we are hoping to use it as a way of celebrating achievements are sharing information about our lives away from school.

Many thanks

Mrs. Chappell

And the Class 1 team