



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 gifts and family gatherings. The children are really enjoying our new topic of “Schools in the past” with a focus on what schools were like in the Victorian era. This topic will cumulate in an exciting full day class trip to Beamish, where we will be taking part in a Victorian classroom workshop. In science we are looking at materials and the properties of materials, the children will be making bridges and using their knowledge to decide which materials will be best for strength.

The children continue to access challenge areas in the provision. This will help to promote independent learning to support their taught learning, the challenges focus on previously taught areas of learning and help to keep the learning in the children's working memory until it becomes embedded learning. It was really successful last year, with the children motivated and excited about their learning.

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. The Reception children will continue to learn their phase 3 sounds which are when two letters together make one sound such as ship and chick, and will be using that knowledge to spell words and to start composing and writing short sentences. The year 1's will continue to work with phase 5 alternative sounds, please remember to practice their tricky words with them that came home at Christmas as it really helps them with their fluency in reading.

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 spelling practice books on a Thursday, please practice their spellings at home during the week before being tested on them on the following Friday.

Library books will come home with your child on a Thursday to be returned to school the following Monday, please look at these books with your child, look at the pictures and discuss the story. If your child doesn't return their library book before Wednesday, they will not get changed until the following week.

In English the children in Reception will be 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, we will be introducing some writing tasks for the children linked to the story with a focus on CVC words and learning how to use our Grow the Code mat.

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, a list was sent home with the children before half term, please practice these at home with your child.

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 mastering maths and developing a deep understanding of numbers and the number system with a focus on subitising and learning how to use the rekenrek for quick addition, they will also be looking at shapes and numbers to ten with lots of practical experiences and hands-on learning. The children in Year 1 will be looking at mass and capacity, length and measure and will be looking at teen numbers with a focus on part-part whole models and fact families.

We will continue to follow the Jigsaw PSHE curriculum with the children will learn about how our similarities and differences make us all unique and special and why we should celebrate our differences.

Our PE lessons will continue to be on Monday and 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 indoor and 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