



Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year!

Welcome back to Year 1 and the start of our Spring term! We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the many kind cards and gifts we received before Christmas, all staff truly appreciated them.

Our topic for the first half term is called "Our Capital City" where we will be learning about London. In History the children will be learning about some famous London landmarks, both modern and historic, as well as learning about Queen Elizabeth II and The Royal Family. Whilst in Geography we will be comparing life in the city to rural/costal locations. In Computing we will be looking at digital print and creating our own London scenes on the laptops. In Art we will be learning about famous local sculptor Henry Moore, then planning and sculpting our own unique creations!



After half term our topic will be "**Skip Into Spring**" where we will be looking at the life cycle of plants, minibeasts and other animals. We will be writing instructions on how to grow a plant and care for it and using this to transform our courtyard. We will study and create observations sketching of the plants we grow.

ENGLISH

In English this term we will be building on the fantastic progress the children have made in learning to write in full sentences, using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.

As in the previous term, we are continuing to praise the children for their use of logical phonetic spelling appropriate to their stage of learning. This means that children will become increasingly aware of the correct spellings for words, in line with their progressing phonic knowledge. We thank you in advance for your support with this.

"High Frequency Words" will continue to be corrected as these often cannot be spelt phonetically. It is the expectation that the children will be able to read and spell these words by heart by the end of Year 1.

Additionally, we will be beginning to use these writing skills to write letters, non-fiction reports, instructions and story writing. Over this term we will have handwriting practise four times a week to continue to improve the children's cursive letter formation and presentation skills. Please encourage your child to form their letters correctly it is very easy to get into bad habits

READING

We will continue to hear children read daily through our reading carousel. One of these activities will be for the children to independently choose two reading scheme books, from what is now called the "Rainbow Library" and one library book to take

home each week, an activity the children have shown a great deal of enthusiasm for, taking pride over their choices. The reading scheme books the children take home are chosen for their appropriate level. The children should be able to read around 95% of these books with complete fluency and are there for practise and consolidation. Please feel free to let your children read these as many times as they like and to anyone at home they choose! As well as to you this could be a sibling, a teddy bear or even the goldfish! All reading is beneficial. Children will continue to be logging their new reading books in their Reading Diaries themselves, please continue to note down the reading you have done at home and any comments you have. Thank you for your continued support with reading at home, it really does make a big difference.

In Summary your child will have two reading scheme books and one library book each week. There will be comments about another book, but this is read as a group and kept at school. Remember that the books that come home are chosen by your child and each shelf will have a breadth of challenge within it.

MATHS

In Maths we will continue to work on number recognition and formation to 100. Much like letter formation and handwriting, correct number formation is an ongoing focus. If you are writing numbers at home, please do use the “number ditties” that were sent home in home learning books to help reinforce this. Maths lessons will continue to consolidate understanding of the basic principles of addition and subtraction, moving on to mental arithmetic and consolidating the all-important number bonds. By the end of year 1 we would expect children to recall number bonds to 10 and to 20 quickly and by heart. Number bonds are pairs of numbers that add together to make a common total, ($1+9=10$, $2+8=10$, $3+7=10$ etc.) This can be practised in a fun and easy way, the more often the better! We will also be learning to estimate, tell the time, use and count money and begin basic multiplication.

P.E. SESSIONS

Both classes will have PE every week either on a Thursday and every other Friday. It is vital that the children have both indoor and outdoor kits at school at all times. PE kit will be sent home for washing at the end of every half term. Children will need suitable outdoor clothing – sweatshirt/zip-up top, jogging bottoms and trainers. For indoor PE, children will need white t-shirts and blue shorts. Please ensure all items of your child’s P.E kit are named.

OUTDOOR LEARNING

This term Year 1 children will continue to have Outdoor Learning every other week on a Monday. Hedgehog class will be the first on the 9th then Squirrels on the 16th and so on.

KINGS AND QUEENS FOR THE DAY!

On Wednesday 8th February all children will be invited to celebrate our topic in a King’s and Queen’s day. Please do not tell the children about this as they will be receiving a formal invitation from Squirrel and Hedgehog Palace. On this day children will be asked to wear their party clothes ready for the ball!

APOLOGIES

Squirrel class have received their home learning today. Do not feel pressured to complete this in the week if you do not have time. Even if it is not completed can we still have all books in by Wednesday.

Thank you for your continued support. We hope you find this information useful, if there is anything else you wish to know or to clarify please feel free to ask. We are looking forward to another term with you and your fantastic children!

Miss Stott and Mrs Mather