



Aim High Fly High

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! We have a busy and exciting term ahead. I am looking forward to getting to know the children further and helping them to continue to make progress and enjoy their learning.

Most of our routines will remain the same this term. Children will continue to have phonics lessons within their differentiated groups four times a week and in class during English and reading sessions. The children are grouped from across Year 1 and Year 2 to allow children to practise the skills and words appropriate for their learning stage. Common Exception Word spellings will continue to be sent home and checked every Friday. Please ensure your child brings their spelling sheets in on this day each week. Phonics sounds and spelling rules will still be sent home on a Friday. The children are not tested on these but they will be required to read and write these words during the following week within their phonics session. The tricky words within the list are used throughout the week and are useful words for the children to learn by heart.

PE times are as last term – PE with our coach from Cambridge United is on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons the children are taught PE by their teacher. We will endeavour to go outside each week for PE unless it is pouring with rain; please check your child's P.E. kit includes a plain white/blue t-shirt, black shorts, jogging bottoms, warm sweatshirt/sports jacket, spare socks and trainers/pumps. Please make sure **all** P.E. kit is clearly named so we can return them quickly if lost.

Show and Tell will continue to be on a Friday during Golden Time and is limited to items and news related to our topic or of significance. We ask that children do not bring toys or swapping cards from home. We have found in the past that many special things have been lost or broken and we would like to avoid this where possible.

This term's Home Learning grid will be handed out to every child and will be available to access on the school website. As always, please let me know if you have questions about any of the activities or require print-outs of the resources. You will notice that the grid puts greater emphasis on reading at home and we would be more than happy to support parents in this area if required. Well done to children who are remembering to hand their books in every day; this greater independence is a super start in preparing them for Key Stage 2 expectations. As this topic will be running for the whole of the Spring term, we would like your child to please choose **two** projects to be completed throughout the whole term. Please hand them in as they are completed and they will be displayed at the end of term. We will continue to use your child's reading diary as a means of communication so please encourage them to bring these in each day and place them in the reading book box to be checked by an adult. We will help the children daily to change their reading books and will also continue to choose books from the library each week. We also like to hear about books that the children are enjoying to read and share at home so please do let us know about these also.



Guided Reading and Writing - Each child has at least one guided reading session led by myself each week. These sessions involve a small group of children who are working at a similar level of ability. Activities include discussing and interpreting texts as well as exploring ways to improve sentence writing. They will also be carrying out independent follow-up and spelling and grammar activities. We also aim to read with the pupils 1:1 when possible.

During the school day the children are given opportunities for quiet reading time, as well as book sharing with a friend. Children are very welcome to bring in books from home for this and can keep them in their trays. I would also be very grateful for any parent helpers who would be willing to hear children read in the afternoon. If you would like to come in and help in class, either on a regular basis or as and when you can, please let me know as we would love to see you!

We also have the class reading sack which includes a variety of books for the children to enjoy at home. These will be given out on a Friday and need to be returned by the following Friday for the next pupil to take it home.

At home, please continue to listen to your child read as often as possible and encourage them to change their reading book as often as they need to. Daily reading is recommended but is not always possible due to after school commitments, tiredness etc. However, if you could aim for at least three times a week and record this in the reading diary that would be most beneficial. Your child will continue to earn stickers on their bookmarks every time their reading is recorded in their reading diary. For some children in the class the main objective this year is to apply known phonic sounds and decoding strategies as well as build up reading fluency (*for children on reading bands red, yellow, blue, green and orange*). For other children this term their focus will be to develop inference, interpretation and deduction skills, as well as looking closely at the words authors choose for effect (*for children on reading bands*

turquoise and above). If your child is reading fluently, you could support your child to develop these skills by asking questions such as these:

- Describe a character, setting or event in your own words.
- What do you think will happen because of ... ?
- If this was you – how would your friends react?
- How do we know that?
- If you were this character, what would you do now?
- What was this character thinking as s/he...? How do you know?
- What does (word/phrase) mean? Why has the author used this phrase/feature? E.g. italics, bold, repetition, simile, exclamation marks, headings, bullet points, captions etc.
- What words has the author used to make this character funny/sad/angry? How effective is this?

In English, the children will have plenty of opportunities this term to improve their writing skills. Our topic for the whole of the Spring term is 'Healthy Me, Healthy You, Healthy Us' and will focus on healthy lifestyles, looking at exploring different foods, how we can exercise to keep healthy and looking after our well-being.

Our Maths learning this term will include securing our knowledge of place value and addition and subtraction methods through problem solving and reasoning activities, involving word problems and money. We will also be teaching the skills involved in multiplication and division. We will be learning about simple fractions, of both shapes and numbers, and solving a range of calculations using practical, pictorial and written methods. Our calculation policy is available on the school website, or, if you would like more information, please come and ask me.



Finally, if you have any queries about your child's learning, or just want a chat about how they are doing, please come and see me or email Mrs Rigby in the office to make an appointment.

Yours sincerely,
Miss Nicholson