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Head teacher: Mrs K Douglass
(1:1 BA Hons in Education)

5th January 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy new year! I hope that you have had a lovely Christmas, the children have been telling me all about it. I would also like to say thank you for your lovely gifts. Your children have started the new year with great attitudes towards their learning and they are looking forward to learning all about our theme 'I wonder ... how do things move?' I have attached to my email our parent friendly medium term plan which highlights key learning for this half term.

Reading

We know that both reading at home and at school is a very important part of your child's education. Your child will be taught to read through our daily phonics sessions. They will also learn and practise how to blend and segment these phonemes/graphemes in order to read and write. We aim to listen to children read at least once a week (either myself or another adult). I hope that you appreciate that there may be times when this doesn't always happen, but we do try. We will be checking reading records every Friday to see which children have read at home and who needs their books changed. Please try to listen to your child read and practise their phonics as often as possible (the school's minimum expectation is four times a week). Please record reading and phonics practice in your child's reading record. Children do not need to change books every day as we follow the Read Write Inc scheme which changes books on specific days relating to where they are within their sequence of learning. It benefits children to read their book every day to build up fluency and confidence. As part of Karate Reading, children gain points for reading at home, which in turn leads to them gaining different coloured 'karate bands'. Please bear in mind, at times, we have had a shortage of bands, so I will do my best to backtrack when needed. Points however cannot be given if there is nothing recorded in the reading record. It is important to note that reading does not always mean having to read a school book. Children can also read/be read to any books/comics you have at home or library books that they will be bringing home. Reading could also be spotting words in their environment, playing word games, reading their key words that they will be bringing home, reading a recipe/ingredients/instructions etc.

For phonics, we will be focusing on special friends `sh, th, ch,qu,nk and ng` as well as continuing to blend simple CVC words and writing simple captions. I will be sending home phonics videos and resources each week to help you support your children with their reading at home. This is important and makes a huge impact on your child's reading.

Wellies/Coats

Children will be outside on a daily basis, please can all children make sure they have a pair of wellies and a coat in school at all times. The children will be using the outdoor area a lot but it could be wet or muddy. Also, they will be using the woodland area but will not be able to do so if they do not have a change of shoes.

PE Kits

Children need their PE kits (named please) in school on Tuesday for their PE session, children this young do not get their PE kits dirty or sweaty and so they don't need to be taken home too often to be washed. We will send them home at the end of every half term for washing or before if dirty.

Water bottles/snacks

All children must be provided with a water bottle, filled with water only. These are then available all day for them to regularly hydrate themselves. Children are welcome to bring a snack in for morning play although fruit is provided every day free of charge.

Tapestry

We will continue to update on our learning journey on Tapestry weekly. If you would like to share photos of activities and or experiences that you enjoy at home please share on Tapestry as the children love to see themselves on the big screen and share what they have been doing with their friends.

Information

There are many ways in which we communicate information to you. Please check your child's book bag every day as we do put letters and other information in these. I strongly advise you to check your emails too on a daily basis. Every week we produce a newsletter but we do not send out paper versions as these are sent as an email and are placed on the school website. It is really important that you read the newsletter every week for important dates/pieces of information.

If you would like to know what your child will be learning throughout this topic, please visit the website where you will find our Medium Term Plan and other useful information.

Please can you ensure that every item of your child's clothing (and shoes) is named. Thank you.

If you have any questions or queries, please come to see me at any time. Thank you for your cooperation and support and I look forward to a year of learning and fun.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs Turner

