

## Year 1 Curriculum Newsletter - Spring 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school. I hope you all enjoyed Christmas. Already the children are settling down to the new term's work.

As I said last term the children are working hard to achieve their expected higher standard on the curriculum and this will continue this term.

### English

Most of the children tell me how much they are enjoying reading at home and many parents are recording how proud they are of their child's reading ability and enthusiasm. It makes a big difference. Children who do not read at home inevitably find tasks at school more challenging and often do not progress as quickly as others. For those who do read, it is beginning to show in the vocabulary they can spell and use in their written work as well as their ability to speak in sentences. While children do read in school, practice at home is vital so please listen to your child read at least 4 times a week if not daily. This term we are reading stories linked to the Rainforest. We will be listening to Elmer stories and Handa's Surprise as well as Walking In The Jungle to help us write some poetry. Encouraging your child to use their phonic skills when reading and spelling will impact on their ability to read, spell and write as well as reinforcing that these skills are vital in all subjects and not just for spelling tests or assessments.

Useful websites for reading/phonics:

[www.lettersandsounds.com\\_games](http://www.lettersandsounds.com_games)

[www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk)

[www.familylearning.co.uk/phonics\\_gameshtml](http://www.familylearning.co.uk/phonics_gameshtml)

[www.ictgames.com/dinosaureggs.phonics](http://www.ictgames.com/dinosaureggs.phonics)

[www.ictgames.com/phonics\\_fighter4.html](http://www.ictgames.com/phonics_fighter4.html)

[www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk) (KS1 Bitesize Literacy

[www.oxfordreadingowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordreadingowl.co.uk)

Crickweb and Woodlands Junior School have some super games and activities in Maths and Science as well as English.

<http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/page/default.asp?title=Home&pid=1>

<http://www.crickweb.co.uk/Key-Stage-1.html>

We are continuing to work on grammar, punctuation and spelling which is a very important part of the new curriculum. Our spellings are made up phonic, tricky and keyword spellings. We talk about tricky words when we read e.g. the word **work** has **or** in it but we hear **er** not **or**. I am planning to start joining handwriting with the children however some children still need to form certain letters correctly to enable them to join letters quickly and fluently.

### Maths

We are continuing our work on number facts for all numbers up to 20. In turn some children are beginning to use these facts to make facts for higher numbers e.g.  $15 + 5 = 20$  will help to work out  $150 + 50 = 200$ . We keep returning to earlier maths facts to keep them fresh in the children's minds so please keep practising them such as writing numbers correctly e.g. 13 not 31 for thirteen, 20 not 12 for twenty, 1 more and 1 less, doubles and halves and numbers that add together to make 20. This term we will be doing more work on addition and subtraction as well as reading the time, comparing lengths and weights and spotting shapes around us. Helping your child to learn o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to would be brilliant.

## PLEASE REMIND CHILDREN THAT WEDNESDAY IS HOMEWORK DAY.

### Science

We will be learning about Animals including humans- the different animal groups e.g. mammals, birds and reptiles. We will also be learning about herbivores, omnivores and carnivores. We will also be comparing weather here with weather in Rainforests. We have booked a visit from Jay, who brings a selection of exotic animals for the children to learn more about. We even get to hold some of them!

In R.E. we will be thinking about Creation, New Life and Easter while PHSE will involve learning strategies to cope with different situations that may affect them and their friends.

P.E. will still be on Tuesday and **ALL** children need a PE kit of shorts, t shirt and plimsolls every week. It would be a good idea to send in PE kit and leave it in school until half term to avoid children forgetting it. Please ensure that children with pierced ears only wear studs for health and safety reasons. Some children have chosen to do outdoor games in Golden Time on a Thursday and these children will need jogging bottoms and a warm top as well as suitable footwear as this is the coldest time of year.

If your child requires any regular medication (inhaler and spacer, epi-pen) please could you ensure it is available in school and in date.

I look forward to seeing you at open day later this term on the 3rd of March for Open Afternoon and Evening but, in the meantime, if you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me. I am always in the playground before and after school for quick questions or to arrange an appointment for anything that needs a longer chat.

Please note that due to Government legislation leave will not be granted for holidays unless there are extenuating circumstances.

By working together we can ensure that children approach new challenges with confidence and achieve success. Parents who have been able to come in regularly at 9 o'clock on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays have been a great help giving children a chance to develop their reading confidence and understanding. I have really appreciated your time and help. If anybody else could help on any of those days or another day please let me know. The child love to read to a visiting adult.

We have a number of children who have already received their free book for reading 10 library books. I hope each child will receive at least 1 or 2 books of their choice this year for reading library books. We are hoping to change our library day

Our Annual Book Week begins with a Dressing Up Day on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March. We will also be having a Book Fair around the same time- details will follow later.

Thank you so much for your continued interest and support. It is so important to your child that you are showing an interest in their work and development.

Mrs A. Honeyman