



Key Stage One Newsletter

It has been wonderful to see all the children so keen, eager and excited to return to school after the holidays. We hope that all our families enjoyed the festive break and we would like to take this opportunity to say a massive thank you for all the presents that the staff received at the end of last term.

READING

At our school we work relentlessly to ensure that every child becomes a fluent reader. As part of this aim, we are always looking at ways to adapt our practice in order to improve the support we give every child. Whilst most of this happens 'behind the scenes', this term we are making some changes which you will notice and hopefully find helpful! First, we are changing the way we run our Guided Reading sessions in order to allow all the teachers the time to read 1-to-1 with the children with the overall aim being that every child reads 1-to-1 with their teacher at least once every fortnight. With this adapted timetable, once a week, your child will read 1-to-1 with either their teacher or a teaching assistant who will then write specific feedback in your child's Reading Record about what they are doing well and their next steps for further improvement. Hopefully you will find this weekly feedback helpful and provide you with specific information about what your child is doing well as well as targets to work on during your regular reading sessions at home. Furthermore, we are retraining all members of staff in assessing which colour book band a child should be reading. This training, in combination with more regular reading sessions with their teacher should allow children who are reading on the wrong book band to be spotted more quickly and moved with the minimum of fuss. Finally, on the reverse of this newsletter, you can find some more general tips to help you help your child with reading at home.

CURRICULUM NEWS

Last half-term finished with the children's superb performances of 'A King is Born'. The snow tried its best to disrupt the preparations but to no avail – the children still got the opportunity to show off their excellent singing and acting skills! Thank you to all family and friends who changed their plans in order to attend a performance at a different time than originally planned. Together with your help, the school raised £229.53 for the charity 'Guide Dogs' who help blind and partially sighted people throughout the UK by providing guide dogs, mobility, and rehabilitation services – thank you for your generosity.

This half-term, the topic in Year 1 will be 'Travel and Transport' where they will be investigating different types of materials through the story of 'The Three Little Pigs'. In Year 2, the topic will be 'London's Burning!' where the children will learn the story of the Great Fire of London as well as discover what life was like in 17th century London. The curriculum maps for both year groups will be sent out shortly.



TEACH YOUR MONSTER TO READ

This term within school, we are going to start to make greater use of an online, reading resource called 'Teach your monster to read' to help support children in their acquisition of phonics. Most suitable for Year 1 children, it is an interactive phonics and reading game that teaches letter sound recognition as well as blending, segmenting and reading tricky words whilst children take their created monster on a magical journey. I am currently using this game to teach my young nieces to read and they love it! Whilst the game costs £4.99 in your device's App Store, it is free to play on a laptop or desktop device. If you would like to further support your child's acquisition of phonics by playing this game at home, please email the school office and we will send you through a username and password so that you can play for free on a laptop or desktop device.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns about anything to do with your child's education or wellbeing then please do not hesitate to get in contact with myself or a member of the KS1 team.

Chris Leach
Key Stage One Leader

Event	Date
SATs information meeting (Y2)	Wednesday 24 th January – 6pm
Multi skills at PRS (Y2)	Tuesday 30 th January – 1pm
Y2 Assembly to parents	Thursday 8 th February – 9am

Reading with your child

Here are some simple tips to help you help your child with reading at home.

Enjoy it!

- Make book sharing a fun time that you both enjoy – snuggle up with a book!
- Read old favourites together as well as new books.
- If your child reads to you, or joins in when you are reading to them, show them that you are proud of what they can do.

Make time and space!

- Make reading a special part of your day. Try to find a time when you aren't busy doing other things so you can spend 'quality time' reading together – even if it's only for a few minutes.
- Try to find a quiet place away from distractions like the television or the computer.
- Try to find some time every day for reading together – 10 minutes each day is better than a long session once a week.



Be positive!

- Give your child lots of praise, encouragement and support when they read to you. Focus on what they did well, not what they did wrong. Even small successes are important.
- Never force your child – if they are reluctant to read you could offer a small reward such as playing a game they enjoy. If they are tired or very reluctant, read to them instead.

Find out what they like to read!

- Sometimes we read for pleasure but much of the time we read for a reason. Read lots of different things together – stories, information books, comics, magazines, websites, cereal packets, TV listings – anything you and your child enjoy reading or need to read.
- Let your child make his or her own reading choices sometimes. They need to develop their own personal likes and dislikes. It is OK not to like some books! Don't worry if they choose an 'easy' or favourite book over and over again. This is normal and helps children build their reading confidence and enthusiasm.
- Join the local library and let your child choose from the great range of books on offer.

Talk about it!

- Talking about books will help your child become more involved and interested in reading and can help them understand more.
- After you've read a book together – or anything else you choose to read – talk about it. What was it about? How did it make you feel? What did you like or not like about it? What did you learn? Spend some time looking at the pictures and talk about what they tell you. Never cover the pictures while sharing a book.
- You can talk with your child about anything – games, TV programmes, films or other things you do together.

