

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to everybody! I would just like to congratulate the Key Stage One team and children for the wonderful Christmas production of 'Lights, Camel, Action'. Thank you to parents/carers for your support as well. It certainly brought some seasonal magic into the school!

We are already in full swing this term and the children are very enthusiastic about their new topics on Weather and Seasonal Changes (Year 1) and Fire and Life in the Freezer (Year 2). As always, if you have any resources or expertise in any of the above areas, do let a member of staff know, as we would welcome any contributions.

Homework and Reading

Thank you for your continued support with children's homework. The activities sent home are designed to consolidate previous learning. We work hard to plan and create a range of differentiated activities to promote different skills. Please take the time to work with your child and support them in these activities. All homework should be completed in pencil. If there is a genuine reason why your child has not completed their homework please write a note to explain why. Homework will not be marked if it is handed in late!

Year 2 Spellings

We are continuing to work hard to develop the children's spelling as there is an emphasis on spelling in the writing standards for the end of Year 2. We will continue to send home weekly spelling lists which the children will be tested on. Every child needs to practise each of their spellings at least 3 times in their spelling books. We find that this is the best way of reinforcing the letter pattern or the spelling of the word. In class they will be tested on these spellings but we will put them into a sentence so the child learns the meaning as well as how to spell the word.

Year 1 Spellings

We will be sending home weekly spelling lists which the children will be tested on. We ask that they practise writing each of the spellings at least twice in their spelling books. In class they will be tested on these spellings but again we will put them into a sentence so it would be extremely helpful if you could practise the spellings within sentences at home with them too.

Reading

As a team, we can't stress enough the importance of hearing your child read at home every day. We are finding some children are not reading at all at home! There is a significant difference in the progress the children make in reading when they read to an adult regularly at home. It is also really important to check their understanding through detailed and thorough questioning. Children have book marks in their reading record books with appropriate questions to ask your child. We still ask that you write in the title of the book the child has and that you sign your child's reading record, when you hear your child read. This tells us whether they have read the book so that we know they can change it every Monday. Reading a broad range of books is essential to help children develop as readers, please record any reading your child does at home, not just the reading scheme books. We also encourage you to share your child's library book together.

Independence

Now it is cold, please make sure your child has a **named** coat, hat, scarf and gloves to keep them warm whilst they are playing outside. It would be helpful if they could do up their own coats and know how to put their gloves in their coat pocket etc.

May we remind you that the children are old enough now to come into the classroom on their own. We would appreciate it if the children said goodbye to parents at the **outside blue doors** and then carry **all** their own belongings in to the classroom and put their own stuff away independently. The beginning of the day is always busy and we try to start learning promptly at 9.00. If you need to speak to a teacher please arrange to see the teacher at the end of the day when they are less busy and have more time to meet with you. Please be aware that teachers have after school meetings on a Tuesday and Thursday and may be running a club on a Monday after school, so perhaps a Wednesday or Friday is best if you need a longer meeting.

P.E. Reminder

Every class has two P.E. lessons a week. One of these will be indoors, either: dance, yoga or gymnastics, the other will be outdoor games. We ask that the children bring the correct P.E. kit to school. Please ask at the office or look on the website if you are unsure of the correct kit. Your child must have dark coloured tracksuit bottoms and a dark coloured fleece/hoodie for outside games as it gets very cold and their blue shorts for indoor PE.

Could you please ensure that **stud earrings** are removed for P.E. day and **all pieces of clothing** are clearly labelled, this includes their school uniform, as with clothes looking so similar they often get muddled up!

Water bottles and Fruit

We encourage children to bring a named water bottle into school; this can be sipped throughout the day. Every day your child will bring home their drinking bottle so it can be washed and filled up for the next day. This is a good way of monitoring how much water your child is drinking throughout the day. If a child doesn't have a drinking bottle, they can be purchased from the Office at a cost of £1.50. Every morning the children are offered a free piece of fruit to eat. If your child isn't keen on the choices, they are encouraged to bring an extra piece of fruit in their lunchbox to eat mid-morning. This helps to promote good eating habits, which helps them to stay healthy and focused at school.

Thank you for your continued support

Mrs Brech
Infant Phase Leader