

Dear Parents,

It was wonderful to welcome the children back at the start of the term and we have been very impressed with the superb attitude to learning that they have displayed. This newsletter will outline some of the things we will be covering in the spring term and to provide you with important information that will allow you to support your child at home.

Topic



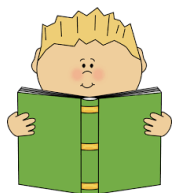
This term in geography our topic is 'What's it like where we live?' where we will be learning about the physical features of Newport and surrounding areas.

Science will be taught during science week towards the end of the half term - we are learning about animals. We will be describing the characteristics of different animals and grouping by animal type, such as 'bird' "reptile" mammal'.

English

In English we will be reading stories from a familiar setting. Our writing focus will be planning sentences out loud, punctuating sentences with capital letters and full stops and practising our letter formation. Children will be encouraged to sound out unfamiliar words and write down all the sounds they hear, using the sounds they have been taught so far.

Reading



We know that reading is very important to children's learning throughout the subjects and Year One is a key year for developing early reading skills. Children will change their 'colour banded books' once a week with an adult but have the opportunity daily to change their books themselves. Before changing books, it is important to read the book more than once to ensure fluency. We will be most grateful if you can continue to support reading at home as much as possible, just a little every day will have an immeasurably positive impact on your child's progress in school - a few pages

per night is great. Please record any reading at home in the children's reading diaries. You are welcome to simply tick which days your child has read at home or add a comment - it is up to you!

Phonics

Phonics is taught on a daily basis with Miss Melaniphy, Mrs Gilbert and Mrs Hodson and in addition to your child's reading book they will be given a new 'Read Write Inc book' which will allow them to practice phonetically decoding words using the new sounds that they have learned. There are great suggestions in the front and back of the books to allow you to check your child's understanding of the story. These books will change approximately every 3 days in line with the teaching. These books are part of our phonics lessons and so it is imperative that the books are sent into school daily, the books will be numbered to allow us to keep track of this.

Maths

In maths we are focussing on numbers to 20. We are concentrating on counting sequences, comparing numbers, and ordering numbers. We will be talking about the value of each digit. We will also be looking at 2D and 3D shapes. We will continue to practice in school our recall of number bonds to 10 and will appreciate if you can support this at home.

PE



The children are taught dance/gymnastics on a Thursday morning with Mrs Gilbert. There are additional fitness and games PE sessions on a Wednesday afternoon with Mrs Harvey. Please can PE kits be kept in school throughout the week. The kit should include trainers, shorts and jogging bottoms/leggings, a t-shirt and a jacket. We will be most grateful if you will double check at the weekend that all items of clothing in school are named, to assist us to re-unite them with the correct owner when they get mixed up, which will inevitably happen as the children learn to be responsible for their own items of clothing.

Outdoor

We will be heading outside often for some fun outdoor learning. This term we will be focussing upon Spring. Please can children be provided with a pair of named wellies to be kept in school so that we can go outside whether rain or shine!

Homework

Homework will be handed out on Fridays. This will alternate between maths and literacy. Homework is due back in school on a Tuesday. The homework set will often recap the last week's learning, so it is a good guide as to what the children have been learning in school.

If you have any queries, please feel free to come and talk to us at the door.

We are looking forward to a fantastic term!

Many thanks,
Miss Melaniphy, Mrs Gilbert and Mrs Hodson