

Dear Y1 Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and happy New Year to you all. Thank you so much from all the Y1 staff for the very generous best wishes, cards and gifts which we received at Christmas. It was very kind of you all. We do hope you had a lovely Christmas with your families and wish you all a very peaceful 2024! Below is information which we hope will be helpful to you.

PE

Our PE days are Tuesday and Wednesday. Tuesday will be led by Mrs Freeman and will focus on dance and on Wednesday we will be completing our 'Sending and Receiving' unit with Mrs Trotter. Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school on these days and earrings are removed if they are unable to take them out. Please can we ask that if your child finds it difficult to turn their clothes the right way round (if they are inside out), to do or undo buttons or to put their socks on, that you practise these skills at home with them. We want to enable our Y1 children to develop these life skills and to enable them to get dressed and undressed for PE with increased independence. Thank you for your support in this matter. As the weather can still be a little inconsistent and cold at this time of year, we will continue to do PE indoors this half term.

Reading Books

Your child will continue to bring home two reading books; their phonics Read Write Inc one (which is changed every Monday) and a book banded book (which they can change whenever they want to). Just a quick reminder that the most important book is their Read Write Inc phonics book which they should be able to attempt with little adult support. We do however understand that children like to choose their own book, so please feel free to read the book banded book together as a shared reading book. Children should aim to read at home at least 3 times per week and reading raffle tickets will be awarded for reading.

Spelling books

The children will continue bringing home their spelling book on a Friday. They will have their new spelling list stuck in and these will also be on Spelling Shed. Please support your child in learning their spellings. They will be regularly assessed in their spellings. Their spelling books need to be in school every **Friday**.

Homework

Every Friday, we will be sending home a short maths task and a Ruth Miskin Read Write Inc video both of which will be on Seesaw. Please ensure these are completed by the following Friday. Not all the maths activities need written answers, some are practising counting, saying sentences etc.

Book Bags

Please can children bring their book bag to school every day so that we can change reading books, check reading diaries and ensure any letters etc are put inside.

Read Write Inc

At The Ellis, we are always looking at ways to improve our teaching and learning and like to keep up to date with recent research. Lots of educational research has gone into the best way to teach writing in the first few years of school. We, as a staff, have decided that we are going to fully follow our Read Write Inc programme and will be changing how we deliver our English lessons from this term. Our Y1 children will be in small groups for the discrete teaching of reading and writing (our Read Write Inc groups) from 11am – 12pm every day. They will also have half an hour as a whole class with Mrs Trotter each day when we will immerse ourselves into lovely, vocabulary rich books which will enable us to develop our oracy skills through lots of talk partner work, drama activities and discussion activities. The children have really

embraced the changes already and we are excited to see the impact of this on their reading and writing in preparation for Y2.

You can find The Beeches on Twitter (now known as X) @TheEllisY1. We use X/Twitter to share the learning we are doing at school, celebrate achievements and give information.

Spring 1 learning overview

English

We will be working on different phonic books during our Read Write Inc sessions and will be completing lots of activities around these books. As a whole class, we will be exploring books about toys including 'Lost in the Toy Museum', 'Missing Richmond', 'The Robot and the Bluebird', 'Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon' and 'The Paper Dolls'. We will be completing lots of drama activities, exploring character feelings, retelling stories and reciting phrases.

Maths

This half term we are focusing on numbers to 20. We begin with our '*Place Value to 20*' unit when we will practise making numbers using various apparatus, reading and writing numbers, identifying how many tens and ones each number has, ordering and comparing numbers and find missing numbers on a number line. We will then move onto our '*Addition and Subtraction to 20*' unit. This will build on our addition and subtraction unit to 10 but will use larger numbers.

Science

Our Science learning will focus on '*Identifying Animals*' this half term. We will be learning to name, identify and compare mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and birds. We will then be understanding the difference between herbivores, omnivores and carnivores and will be sorting animals into the correct groups.

History

In History, we will be exploring the question '*How have toys changed?*' We will discuss our favourite toys using language related to the past. We will then be making comparisons between toys in the past and the present. We will be sequencing artefacts from different periods of time and describing how toys have changed over time.

RE

In RE, we will be exploring the question '*Was it always easy for Jesus to show friendship?*' During the unit we will learn three stories from the bible (Jesus stills the storm, Jesus and Zacchaeus and Mary and Martha) and will think about how Jesus showed friendship in each story and how easy or difficult this was.

PE

We will be focusing on sending and receiving skills including throwing, catching, rolling, kicking, tracking and stopping a ball. We will also be learning to choreograph a dance about toys and then safari animals.

DT

In DT, we will be designing, making and evaluating finger / hand puppets and will be learning different ways of joining materials including gluing, stapling and using safety pins.

Computing

We will be learning how to program Beebots this half term. We will explore using individual commands, identify what each floor robot command does, and use that knowledge to start predicting the outcome of programs.

Music

We will be learning about timbre and rhythmic patterns this half term. We will be focusing on the story of '*The Three Little Pigs*', chanting well-known phrases, making changes to our voices to represent a character, choosing a suitable sound to represent a specific point in a story and playing a rhythmic pattern along with our spoken word.

PSHE

We will be thinking about our world and things which grow in our world and computer safety.

Kind Regards

Mrs Trotter and Y1 Team