

Dear Y1 Parents and Carers,

Welcome back. I hope you managed to have a break over the half term holiday. Can you believe we are now half way through Year 1! They say time flies when you are having fun! The children have certainly come back to school ready to learn and there is a real buzz around the classroom which is a joy to see. We have a busy half term and there are lots of whole school events coming up such as Comic Relief, World Book Day and our Walk to church for Easter, so do please check you emails regularly and I will put things on X (previously twitter) too. Below is information which we hope will be helpful to you.

PE

Our PE days are Tuesday and Wednesday. 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. We have noticed that many more children are now able to turn their clothes the right way round which is helping with dressing after PE, so thank you for your support with this at home. It is an important life skill and we want to prepare children for their move into Y2 when it comes. 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 but are hoping that after Easter, one of our weekly lessons will be outdoors for the remainder of the year.

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. If you are having trouble accessing this please do ask. The activities are only short but are very important as they enable the children to practise what they have learnt that week. Thank you for supporting your child in this area of their learning.

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

We are so proud of the children for embracing our new 1 hour daily Read Write Inc sessions (11am – 12pm). They are working so hard and we are already seeing lots of improvement across all the groups. Both staff and the children love the new way we are teaching reading and writing in KS1, and it is wonderful to see their enthusiasm for English. We are also enjoying our 20 minute daily story time session (taught to the whole class by Mrs Trotter) and again, we are seeing lots of excitement about reading, books

and good progress in the development of the speaking and listening objectives from the Y1 curriculum. An exciting move at The Ellis!

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 2 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 animals including 'The Storm Whale', 'Grandma Bird', 'Grandad's Island', 'The Storm Whale in Winter', 'Leo and the Octopus', 'The Snail and the Whale' and other animal stories. We will be completing lots of drama activities, exploring character feelings, retelling stories, reciting phrases, making comparisons between books of the same author, exploring different viewpoints and thinking about how these stories link to our own lives.

Maths

This half term we are focusing on numbers to 50. We begin with our '*Place Value to 50*' unit when we will be practising making numbers using various apparatus, reading and writing numbers, identifying how many tens and ones each number has, ordering and comparing numbers and finding missing numbers on a number line. We will then move onto two measuring units, '*Length and Height*' and '*Mass and Volume*'. During these units our children will do lots of measuring using non-standard units.

Science

Our Science unit '*Pets and Gardens*' focuses on learning about animals which are found in different places and how to look after them. These include animals found at home, in grass, in shaded areas and in ponds. We will be outside where possible looking for these animals.

Geography

In Geography, we will be exploring the question '*How does the weather affect us?*' We will begin by looking at different types of weather and thinking about how it affects our choices of clothing and activities. We will then look at how the weather changes across the four seasons, before we look on a grander scale at weather around the world. We will also be comparing Antarctica and the Sahara Desert.

RE

In RE, we will be exploring the question '*Why is Easter important to Christians?*' During the unit we will look in more detail at the events of the Easter story, the feelings associated with each part of the story and Easter symbols which Christians associate with this important festival.

PE

We will be focusing on target skills with Mrs Trotter and gymnastics with Mrs Freeman.

Art

In Art, we will be learning how to create 3D structures using paper. We will learn to fold, twist, roll and scrunch paper to create 3D pieces of art. We will look at the artists Samantha Stevenson, Marco Balich and Louise Bourgeois.

Computing

We will be learning how to group and sort data according to different criteria.

Music

We will be learning about vocal and body sounds centred around the theme '*By the sea*'. We will identify sounds, recreate and adapt sounds using our body or voice and create a graphic score which they will then play from.

PSHE

We will be thinking about how we can stay healthy and learn ways of staying safe around hazards.

Kind Regards

Mrs Trotter and The Y1 Team