



Dear Families,

11th January 2023

Thank you to all of you who attended the Year One Parent Meeting for the Spring term. Your children have settled very well after the Christmas break and below is a summary of the information given in the meeting:

Phonic Screening Check (PSC):

- This meeting's focus was phonics and reading in preparation for the PSC
- It is a nationwide assessment of children's decoding skills at the end of Year One. It is intended to confirm whether children have learned phonic decoding to an age-appropriate standard by the end of Year One. The PSC is not a test of reading; it only checks their phonological knowledge and their ability to decode words.
- The PSC will be carried out in the week commencing 5th June 2023; it is **very important** that your child is in school that week.
- The children will be given 40 words to decode – some of them will be real words and some made up. The idea is that they use only their phonic knowledge to read each word.
- We do not know what the pass mark will be until after the check is completed. In previous years, the pass mark has been 32 out of 40. Your child's results will be given to you with your child's end of year report.
- If your child does not meet the pass mark, they will retake the check in Year Two.
- Within our meeting, we showed a video of the correct pronunciation of the phonemes (which can be found using this link:

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>



Phase 5 sounds taught in Y1

- We also explained that there will be Fun with Phonics Workshops and dates to sign up will be available during parent consultations.

Our New Topic – Space: To Infinity and Beyond

- During our Space topic, we are going to explore the stars, moons and planets in our Solar System, learn about famous people linked to space travel as well as imagine what life is like being an astronaut.
- There has already been plenty of excitement as your child has investigated space vehicles and taken part in astronaut training!
- Our Stargazing evening will take place on **Wednesday 18th January**. Please return the slip by Monday 16th January if you would like to attend.



Reading in School

- Each day, your child is taught phonics. We do not set for phonics; all children are learning the same but some children may have additional phonics support at other times of the day
- Your child also takes part in three reading practice sessions each week. Each lesson has a different focus of decoding, prosody or comprehension.
- Reading takes place in a group of six children with a member of the Year One team.

Supporting your child with reading at home

- The Big Cat e-library has been a great success at Horley Infant School. Across the school, children have been using it at home to support their reading in class. Please let your child's teacher know if you need a copy of the username and password to access the e-library.
- Thank you for your continued support with your child's reading. To be confident and fluent readers, children **must** practise regularly and often. Therefore, daily reading at home and school is vital, as is being read to – they are not too old for a bedtime story!
- The sounds we learn each week will continue to be sent home along with the explanation sheet and any new tricky words.

Purple Mash:

- Purple Mash is a great tool for improving computing skills. This half-term, we will be learning how to create an algorithm by setting and following instructions. We have already introduced the children to the very exciting Space Topic area which they can explore and save any projects completed.

Recorders:

- Later this term we will be teaching your child basic recorder skills, linked within our weekly music lessons.
- From previous experience, the children really love this and for many it is a great experience to play an instrument and includes the early reading of music.
- Every child will be learning and again we are very fortunate as The Friends have bought recorders for every child!



General Notes:

- As you are aware, the children have many 'jobs' to do in the morning to prepare them for the day. One of these jobs is changing their book, of which many children seem to forget to do...! Please could you give your child a gentle reminder in the morning to change their book on their own – making sure it is the right colour book, too!
- Punctuality is good but please can you ensure you ring school or send a message on Studybugs as soon as possible if your child will be absent.
- The weather is always very unpredictable and the children are coming in with extra layers. Please check that uniform, especially cardigans, hats, gloves and PE kits, are clearly named. There is often a lot of lost property in the entrance hall!
- Please can your child bring a book-bag to school and not a rucksack, as these are difficult to store. It is also useful if your child has a named water bottle in school each day.

Please remember, if you or your child is worried or anxious about any part of school life, please be reassured that you or they can talk to any member of the team. Thank you for your continued support – we had a great first term and are now looking forward to learning about Space!

Marie Read

Sarah Carliell
And
Michelle Emery

Ellie Day

Squirrels

Otters

Foxes