



Thursday 20th April 2023

To all Year One families,

Thank you to all of you who attended the Year One Parent Meeting today. Below is a brief summary of the information given in the meeting; we hope you will find it useful to refer back to. At the meeting, we went through several important areas including the Phonics Screening Check and curriculum information.

OUR NEW TOPICS

- Following the success of our Space topic, we are now moving onto "Dinosaurs" which has a strong History and Science focus.
- After half-term, the topic focus is "Inside and Outside". This second topic is designed to have a Geography focus and will include three local visits. The dates are still to be confirmed but will take place in the 2nd half of the summer term after the Phonics Screening Check. We hope to visit the library in Horley, Waitrose and Horley Baptist Church (not all in one day)!

PHONICS

- We will continue to teach phonics through daily Little Wandle Letters & Sounds Revised sessions across school. The scheme is designed to teach all the sounds needed to decode words in order to become a fluent reader.
- The children have been taught nearly all the phonemes now and we will be spending time recapping these. We are focussing particularly on spotting the digraphs and trigraphs in words and blending the sounds together.
- The pronunciation of different phonic sounds is very important. The Little Wandle website has lots of useful tips and information about phonics for parents. Please follow the link to find out more. <https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>
- By the end of Year One, the expectation is that all children will be using and applying all of these sounds and also recognise a range of simple alternative pronunciations (such as **clown** and **crow**) and alternative spellings (such as **wait** and **same**).

PHONICS SCREENING CHECK

- During Year One, pupils take part in a Phonics Screening Check (PSC). This is a nationwide assessment of children's decoding skills at the end of Year One. The PSC has been in place since 2012 and was introduced and designed by the Department for Education. The check 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 as it only checks pupils' phonological knowledge and their ability simply to decode, not comprehend.
- The phonics check will be carried out the week beginning 12th June by the teachers on a one-to-one basis and therefore attendance in school during this time is key (unless there are exceptional circumstances or illness). The children will be given 40 standardised words to decode; some of them will be real words and some will be made up such as 'quorp' and 'blang'. The idea is that pupils use only their phonic knowledge to identify what each word is.
- 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 communicated with you in their end of year report. If your child does not meet the pass mark, they will retake the check in Year 2.

WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILD

- Please continue to read with your child daily. The sharing books children bring home daily are a great opportunity for you to talk together about the sounds they can identify and the alternative sounds they make dependant on the word they are in.

- The phonically matched decodable books, which are allocated weekly through the Big Cat Collins website, are invaluable in supporting children being able to read a book independently. These are the books that the children read with an adult during our three reading practice sessions throughout the week. Reading these books again at home give children great confidence and develops their independence with reading.

SUMMER WEATHER

- As (hopefully!) the hot weather approaches, there are a few things that can be done to support the children. Unfortunately, we are unable to practically administer sun cream to 30 children ourselves. Therefore, please slip, slap, slop sun cream onto your children before school every morning. If you would like your child to re-apply sun cream during the school day, it must be sent in, in a named container and it **MUST BE NUT-FREE INCLUDING COCONUT** due to the number of allergies within school.
- Extra water and hats are also a good idea – but please ensure that these are named.
- Despite this, we still tend to have rather erratic weather and many children are coming to school without a jumper and coat. Please can we remind you that we like to go out in all weathers, so a light mac or coat would be useful to bring or keep at school during the Summer Term.

Thank you for your continued support – it has been a great year so far and we have another exciting term ahead!

Marie Read
Year One Lead

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 27 th April	Proposed NEU Industrial Action (possible disruption)
Friday 28 th April	Multi-faith Day and Food Festival
Monday 1 st May	Bank Holiday
Tuesday 2 nd May	Proposed NEU Industrial Action (possible disruption)
Friday 5 th May	Coronation Day celebrations and Family Day Assembly (more details to follow)
Monday 8 th May	Bank Holiday (school closed)
Tuesday 9 th May	Class Photos
Monday 29 th May – Friday 2 nd June	HALF TERM
Monday 12 th June – Friday 16 th June	Phonic Screening Check Week
Saturday 17 th June	Horley Carnival
Friday 23 rd June	Friends Summer Family Party
Tuesday 27 th June	Swap Over Day
Friday 30 th June	INSET Day (school closed)
Friday 7 th July	Open Afternoon (more information to follow)
Saturday 8 th July	Summer Fair
Monday 17 th July	Sports Day
Friday 21 st July	Break Up Day – 1.45pm Finish