

# Diamond Class



## Learning Overview

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Summer Term! We are hoping for a change in the weather so that we can really make the most of our new and improved outside area and as always are really looking forward to working with you and your children this Term.

### Reading

**Tortoise Words:** please continue to support your child to learn these words. If they have learnt how to read all 30, please encourage your child to learn how to spell them.

**Reading Diary:** Please ensure that you date and sign the reading diary so that we can monitor how frequently children are reading at home and whether they have read the books and feel free to write a comment when you read with your child: daily reading support is invaluable, and REALLY makes a difference. We ask that you keep your child's book in their book bag and bring it to school every day. Please note that children gain familiarity with new words through repeated practice, so reading books will not always be changed every time your child's reading is heard if we feel they need more practice for fluency. (Sentences may need to be read over and over—first to decode, then to read more fluently with less sounding-out, next to retain the words, and finally to read with comprehension). Books will, however, be changed at least once a week.

### Literacy

This term we are focusing on a variety of books and short films to support our topics. The year 1s are focussing on character descriptions and writing short narratives and are concentrating on capital letters, full stops, finger spaces and extending their sentences using 'and', 'so', 'but' and 'because'. They are also learning to spell days of the week. We are encouraging the year Rs to use their phonic knowledge to hear and write the sounds in simple words and to write their names clearly, to label their pictures with captions, and to begin to write short sentences.

### Year R/1 Phonics

Please continue to practise phonics cards with your child every day. This practise, as well as games such as spotting phonics sounds in words when reading, or when out and about will really help your child to both read and write.

### Numeracy

This term the Year 1 children are counting, partitioning and comparing numbers to 100, describing position, comparing mass, volume and capacity, recognising and counting money and are continuing to solve multiplication and division problems. Year R children continue to count forwards and backwards and build numbers beyond 10. They will also be adding and taking away, doubling and sharing numbers and objects and deepening their understanding in all areas of the maths curriculum..

## Topic

Our topic this half term is *LET'S GROW!* In science we will be learning about the different parts of plants and trees through hands-on dissection and reconstruction activities, and about how seeds move, as well as examining and planting lots of seeds and closely observing how they grow and the conditions they need to survive. In Geography we will be looking at our school, using map work and fieldwork skills to explore where our school is in the world and what human and physical geography surrounds us. In Art we will be honing our observational skills through still-life drawing, mixing our own colours and using collage skills to create a "pansy portfolio". In DT we will be creating and evaluating salads. Our work in PSHE will look at how we grow and in RE we will discuss "Belonging" in the context of an introduction to Judaism and Shabbat.

Next half term we will be focussing on *BEACHES*. In Science we will be learning about different beach habitats and some of the creatures who live there and their food chains and this will be supported by a trip to Dell Quay. In History we will be studying the inspirational story of Grace Darling and in Geography we will be learning about important coasts. In Art we will be making boats that float. PSHE will focus on jealousy and the RE theme will be "Change: People Jesus Met".

## Miscellaneous extras

We are extremely proud of how well your children are progressing and they all are so happy and hard working! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to come and ask—one of us will be available to talk to at the classroom door in the morning, or at the end of the school day, once the other children have been safely released to their grown-up.

Please check name labels in jumpers as, by this stage of term, labels written in pen have often washed off, and children's clothes are beginning to get muddled and go missing: it is much easier for children to find their own belongings independently if they are clearly named. It is also important at this time of year for children to bring a coat every day: the children spend a good deal of time outside and our outside classroom is in shade for the greater part of the day; children who choose the 'picnic box' option also need their coat to sit on outside at lunchtime. Please also make sure that girls' hair is ALWAYS tied back for health and safety reasons. We always stress that hair is not to be fiddled-with, but sometimes very long hair is very tempting, so plaits are perhaps an option! Please remember, too, that PE for Diamonds Class is on Mondays, Tuesdays and alternate Fridays, and children should come into school in their PE kits on each of these days.

We are really excited about all the learning opportunities this term. Thank you, as always, for your support.

Miss R Moore and Mrs V Rose