

Welcome to Diamond Class!



Learning Overview

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Spring Term! We hope that you had a good Christmas and would like to wish you all a very happy (and healthy!) New Year! Thank you for the lovely gifts that you very kindly gave us for Christmas, it was really thoughtful of you.

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. 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 fiction and non-fiction texts, including reading, following and writing instructions. The year 1s are focussing on writing short narratives and are concentrating on capital letters, full stops, finger spaces and extending their sentences using 'and' 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.

Numeracy

This half term the Year 1 children will continue to develop their understanding of numbers to 20 and we will practice addition and subtraction, using our number bonds to help us. We will continue to practice counting forwards and backwards, and write our numerals correctly.

Year R children will be learning about the composition of numbers 4-8 and learning simple addition. They will also be comparing mass and capacity, exploring length and height and continuing to learn language relating to time by sequencing important events in their day and regular events in their week.

Topic

Our topic this half term is *TOYS*. In Science we will be learning about common materials and their properties, and exploring how and why different materials are suitable for different toys. Our History lessons will include a Classroom Toy Museum, where we will study a selection of Victorian, 1920s and 1930s toys, examining how they were made, and how toys have evolved through history. We will also think about 'changes within living memory', thinking about the differences between the toys we played with as babies, and now, and also about the toys our grandparents/parents played with as children. In DT we will work on our design skills to make a moving vehicle. We will draw our designs and work out what materials we need, make them—learning how to attach features and strengthen them—and then evaluate the success of our designs and construction. In Art we will be honing our observational skills through still-life drawing and exploring how to create texture using different art techniques. Our work in PSHE will continue to focus on friendships. In RE our theme this half term will be "Special Clothes".

Changes to morning drop off

Please drop off your child either at the main gate or if you'd prefer to use the gate on the rec, please bring your child down the steps and into our outside area. We would ask that you continue to say goodbye to your child outside and then let them come in independently. An adult will be at the classroom door to welcome your child each day.

Miscellaneous extras

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. Please also make sure that girls' hair is always tied back for health and safety reasons.

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

Miss Moore and Mrs Rose