

Diamond Class



Learning Overview: Spring Term

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the Spring Term! We would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year, and to thank you all for the very kind Christmas gifts you gave us. You are all so thoughtful—thank 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 need to be read at least twice so that your child is able to read with fluency. Once your child has retained most of the sounds taught from our phase 2 phonic programme, they will be given a phonics based book and a high frequency word based book to support both these areas of early reading. Those children who have completed phase 5 of our phonics programme, will not be given phonic based books but two from the alternative reading scheme. Both books will be changed once a week to allow your child to read them enough times to gain fluency.

Writing

This half term our literacy is closely linked to our topic "Dinosaurs". We are looking at fiction and non-fiction texts. The year 1s will be focussing on using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces in their writing and extending their sentences using 'and'. 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 we will continue to practice counting forwards and backwards, and write our numerals correctly. The Year 1s continue to learn about place value—recognising two-digit numerals up to at least 50, understanding their value and their composition. They will be practising counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and continuing to practice addition and subtraction using number facts and number bonds to help them. They will also be comparing and solving problems relating to length and height. Year R children will be practising their counting and subitising skills, linking numerals to values, comparing numbers, exploring the composition of numbers and they will be comparing weights and capacities.

NUMBOTS: please remind your children to access their account and spend 10 minutes a day, 5 times a week building their fluency skills.

Topic

Our topic this term is 'Dinosaurs'. This topic is predominantly history and science, but other curriculum areas will be linked to this particular theme where appropriate. This half term we will be learning about the names and features of different dinosaurs and we will look at their different structures. We will also be learning about those dinosaurs that are carnivores, omnivores or herbivores. In History, the children will be learning about Mary Anning and how fossils are created and can be used to help us learn about the past. During our Art and DT sessions, the children will be exploring how to create different textures and will learn how to print. They will also make their own moving dinosaur picture. In music, the children will be learning dinosaur songs and also creating their own musical compositions. In computing, the Year 1 children will be exploring animated story books and the Year R children will be using programmable toys.

P.E.:

P.E. lessons this year will be on Tuesday afternoons each week, and on alternate Fridays. Please send your child into school in their P.E. clothes **every** Tuesday and Friday. If your child wears earrings, please take them out for the P.E. days.

Water bottles and snacks:

Please could you continue to make sure that your child brings in a **named** bottle of **water every day**. Please be aware that other drinks, such as juice and squash, are not permitted. We would like to request that water bottles are not put in the book bags - a little leak goes a VERY long way. All children in our class continue to be able to have a free piece of fruit every day. If you wish to provide an extra snack please remember our school policy only allows fresh or dried fruit.

Miscellaneous extras:

Our learning takes place as much outdoors as it does indoors, so please ensure your child comes to school in a warm waterproof coat so that they can always access our outdoor learning environment. Please name gloves, scarves and hats too! Please also make sure that girls' hair is ALWAYS tied back for health and safety reasons. By this point in the term some name labels have worn off so please check that all of your child's clothing is still named. It is an impossible task to reunite children with their clothes if they are not named!

Thank you very much for all your continuing support. We look forward to another busy, fun-filled half term! If you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to come and see us or make an appointment.

Kind regards

Miss Moore and Mrs Rose