

## Class One Newsletter - September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you have all had a great summer break! It has been lovely to see all the children back and so enthusiastic about their learning! I am also very excited and I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome our new parents to Class One and share some details of our term with you.

We will still be running our daily mile so we do ask that children arrive to school in PE kit every day, with their uniform in their bag. Our PE slots will be Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon therefore children will not need school uniform on a Thursday.

On a Wednesday, Mrs Wendon will have Class 1 in the morning for Science, spellings and Topic Maths and in the afternoon, Miss Cartledge and Mrs Walker will be covering DT and Art whilst I do PE with the rest of the school.

Our topic for this half term will be "Superheroes". This is part of the Cornerstones scheme which follows the new Primary Curriculum. Please see the attached sheet for further information regarding this.

As always, we continue to strive to ensure that all the children have the best time whilst at school! We want our children to be fit, healthy and happy whilst gaining independence and knowledge. We are continuing with the Gem project within school and more details regarding this will be sent home in due course.

We do ask that parents support the work we do in school by helping their child as much as possible at home. This can be done in the following ways:-

### Reading:

As always, we will be encouraging children to adopt a love of reading across a wide range of text types. In addition to texts read in guided reading, English and their class book, children will have a reading book and a library book which they should read at home (they can also read comics, e-books, magazines, newspapers, leaflets etc.) and record in their reading record. Please support your child with their reading by hearing them read and questioning them about what they have read. Please see the attached sheet for suggested comprehension questions. Children should aim to read **at least 4 times a week** and have their reading diary signed by an adult. As I am sure you are aware this can really have a huge impact on children's progress. Reading records will be checked on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and books will be changed accordingly. We ask for your continued support by hearing your child read regularly at home.

### Spellings:

Most people read words more accurately than they spell them. The younger pupils are, the truer this is. **Wednesday** will be spelling test day for **Year 1** where they will be tested on words relating to the key phonics we are working on that week. **Friday** will be spelling test day for **Year 2** where they will be expected to write a given sentence including the words they have learnt. These words have been taken from our spelling scheme of work, which follows the new curriculum. During the week we will have spent time teaching, practising and most importantly applying the words into written work, before they are assessed the following week.

### 'Learn Its'

Big Maths is a teaching programme used at Ranby to help children to become numerate. Problem solving and word problems cannot be solved until children can manipulate and understand how numbers work. As part of the Big Maths scheme the children have to learn 'Learn Its' for their year group. 'Learn Its' are addition facts and times tables facts. There are 72 'Learns Its' in total. 36 addition 'Learn Its' and 36 multiplication 'Learn Its'. These are facts that children need to learn off by heart, so when they are asked 'What is 6+4 ?' they are able to give the answer as quickly as they would be able to tell you their name. As soon as they know  $3 \times 5 = 15$  they also know  $5 \times 3 = 15$  (This is known as a 'Switcher').

We will complete a 'Learn Its' challenge every **Friday**. The previous weeks challenge will be sent home on each Monday for them to practise. Please find attached a practice sheet for this Friday.

We will also be working with Times Tables Rock Stars and more information will be going out about this in due course. Any help you can give your child to learn their Times Tables would be hugely beneficial. (Year 1 – 2X, 5X, 10X) (Year 2 – 2X, 3X, 5X and 10X)

Within School, we also follow the Abacus scheme of work and as part of this there are online games/activities that will support, extend and/or enhance classwork and the children's learning. Activities will be allocated on a regular basis for your child to access from home. We will send login details out shortly.

### **Creative Homework:**

We do encourage children to complement their learning in school by completing a Creative Homework Project at home! This can take many forms but we would like to encourage a written element to it. Please find attached a list of suggested activities that your child may wish to undertake as part of their creative homework task. We would like homework to be completed by **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018**.

### **Statutory Assessments**

#### **Year 1**

There is a National Requirement designed to confirm whether a child has learnt sufficient phonic knowledge in order to decode and blend at an appropriate standard. The test contains 40 words and the child will sit 1:1 with Mrs Clark to read the 40 words aloud. The test will take approximately 10 minutes and the words are a combination of 20 real words and 20 'nonsense' or alien words.

The Test will take place in **JUNE 2019**. By the end of the summer term, we will report your child's results and confirm if the child has met the standard threshold. Children who do not achieve the expected level will retake the test when they are in Year 2.

We would be very grateful if you could support the work we are doing in school to help your child with their phonics by working with your child at home and:

- Playing lots of sound and listening games with your child.
- Read as much as possible to and with your child.
- Encourage and praise – get them to have a 'good guess'.
- If your child is struggling to decode a word, help them by encouraging them to say each sound in the word from left to right.
- Blend the sounds by pointing to each letter, e.g. /c/ in cat, or the letter group, e.g. /ng in sing. Next move your finger under the whole word as you say it.
- Discuss the meaning of words if your child does not know what they have read.

Please find attached a sheet to show the phonetic sounds that your child will be learning this year.

#### **Year 2**

Your Child will be required to undertake The National End of Key Stage 1 tests in Reading, Maths and Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar with the results helping to form the teacher assessment. These tests will be conducted in **MAY 2019**. All preparation for these assessments will be done in school time and I will hold an information evening for Year 2 parents a little later on in the year.

As always, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to come and talk to us.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs Clark