



LYMINSTER PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to a new year at Lyminster Primary School. Although I have only been teaching your children for a short while, it has been lovely getting to know them and I am sure we will have an enjoyable year together. They have plenty of exciting, stimulating and lively activities to look forward to as a part of their learning.

Our Topic: Awful Egyptians

To begin the year, the children will be delving into the past and investigating whether the Egyptians really were awful! They will learn about the lives of people in Ancient Egypt, the importance of the River Nile to their survival and the mummification process. To conclude this topic, the children will be presenting their work as a museum (more details on this to follow).

Things to Remember

- Full named P.E. kit needs to be in school every Monday and Friday.
- Friday, 21st September – Jeans for Genes Day
- Friday, 28th September – INSET day (school closed for pupils)
- Friday, 19th October – Talents Day

Volunteering

You are always very welcome to come and volunteer for as much time as you can offer. If you are able to make a more regular commitment, perhaps hearing readers, please have a discussion with me about how to go about this.

In addition, we have **Family Friday Reading**, which takes place in the class between 9.00am and 9.20am on a Friday morning - it would be great to see you in school then.

Reading at Home

Reading is a vital part of the children's education and it is expected that they read five minutes a day, whether that is to adults or by themselves. Reading certificates will be awarded in celebration assemblies for the number of times the children have read (**a maximum of one entry per day will be considered towards reading certificates**). To monitor this, the children or adults will need to record this in their reading record, numbering each entry - **50 entries – bronze reading award**, **100 entries – silver reading award**, **150 entries – gold reading award**. Reading records will need to be in the children's book bags every day for adults in school to record one to one reading, however, they must be handed in **every Monday** for us to check. These will then be returned to your child, together with new reading books, if needed, for the week ahead.

Our reading comprehension focus this half term is **retrieving information** directly from the text and it would be brilliant if you could support your children with this skill at home. I have listed some questions you can use below, however, if you would like any further guidance with developing this skill then please let me know.

Key questions for retrieval:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| → Where and when did the story take place? | → Who are the characters in the book? |
| → What did s/he/it look like? | → What happened after/at...? |
| → Who was s/he/it? | → Describe what happened at....? |
| → Can you name the....? | → Where did ... go? |



Homework

Spellings and Mental Maths (including times tables)

Spelling and mental maths activities need to be completed every day at home. **Books will be checked on Mondays** and dragon points will be awarded to those who do this. **Children will be tested every Thursday** when new homework will also be given out. If the children do not get all of their mental maths questions correct, they will remain on that same band until they do so. Homework will be differentiated to meet the needs of each child.

- Spellings (at the **front** of the homework book) – children will practise their spellings every night using the **look, say, cover, write, check** technique. Children will be given new spellings fortnightly and will be tested twice over the two-week period to ensure these are fully embedded. If children would like an extra challenge, they can put them into sentences with their neatest handwriting. Children will also have opportunities to practise and apply their spellings in class.
- Mental Magicians (at the **back** of the homework book) – children should practise their personalised objective in the back of their homework book. These will be set from Friday 21st September.
- Take home task – over the course of the half term, the children must complete two of the activities from the grid. These activities will be shared and celebrated at the end of half-term showcase (date TBC). Dragon points will be awarded for these pieces of work.

Finally, if you have any questions, queries or concerns, please come and find one of us in Year 2 or leave a message at reception.

Kind regards,

Mrs Walker, Miss Washington, Mrs Gale
Year 2 Team

