



LYMINSTER PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Carers.

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope you had a magical Christmas. Thank you so much for all your lovely cards and presents!

Our Topic – Around the World

This term, we will be travelling across the world, learning about our class country: Kenya, in Africa. We will find out about the geography, culture and traditions of Kenya as well as listening to Kenyan-inspired music, stories and art. We will be looking at the life of a Kenyan child and researching animals who live in this part of the world. Much of our writing this half-term will be stimulated by traditional stories and photographs of this amazing country. Our Design Technology will focus on traditional buildings in different parts of the country, culminating in creating our very own Kenyan village to compete against other year group building projects from around the world. We would like to invite all parents/carers in to share our work on **Thursday 14th February 2019 from 2:30pm-3:15pm.**

Reading at Home

Your child is continuing to develop a wide range of reading skills and should now be confidently blending sounds to read more complex words, including digraphs (two letters making one sound), as well as recognising many words by sight. Please continue to provide your support by **reading daily** at home. We find that those children who practise regularly make the fastest progress and are more likely to develop a life-long love of reading. In order to encourage children to read, we will continue with the class **Reading Challenge**. Our class target is **70** or more daily reading entries in their Reading Diaries in **one week**, in order to receive a class treat. Unfortunately, this was not a regular achievement during the Autumn term. We appreciate how busy you all are but cannot emphasise enough how valuable this is to your child's learning. We also encourage and celebrate regular reading with reading certificates awarded in celebration assemblies for the number of times the children have read. Please help us to monitor this by numbering each reading entry in your child's reading record, one number per day (rather than one each time they read). **It is important that your child's reading books and Reading Diary are in their book bag every day as we like to take every opportunity to read!**

Our reading-at-home focus this half term will be **checking that the text makes sense to them as they read, and correcting inaccurate reading**. It would be really helpful if you could support your child by helping them to do this by asking them questions and recording their responses in their Reading Diary.

Please also continue to read aloud more difficult texts and favourite books to your child.

We would also like to remind you about Lyminster's popular **Family Reading** sessions on Friday mornings **9.00am - 9.20am**. Everyone is welcome and children really look forward to seeing you there!

Homework

Homework in Year 1 will continue to focus on Maths and Spelling. Each week, spellings will include a few Year 1 Common Exception Words. Next half-term, as the Year 1 Phonics Screening approaches, we will send home real



and alien (nonsense) words for your child to practise reading with you each day. As you may be aware, our first Lyminster Spellathon was a huge success! Please help your child to practise their weekly spellings. We will be selecting Spring's participants in a matter of weeks!

Please read fiction, poetry and non-fiction books, comics, newspapers, etc. with your child. We will change school reading and library books on a weekly basis.

If you would like to support your child with additional home learning, we ask that you help them to practise number bonds to 10 or 20, counting forwards and backwards from any given number to 100 and reading and writing numbers to 30 as digits and words.

Your child will be encouraged to write neatly, using finger spaces, with 'lead-ins' at the start of each lower case letter. This half-term we will also begin to practise writing capital letters. Don't forget that you also have free access to our handwriting website: <https://www.letterjoin.co.uk>. The username is **ak3814** and the password is **home**. We love seeing all the captions, stories, diaries and fact sheets that your children have made so please keep encouraging any independent or supported writing at home.

Half-Term Challenge: 10 Things to Do Before You're 7!

Each half-term we encourage your child to take part in an activity at home. Please help your child to record this by taking photos, drawing pictures, or writing about their experiences. Any evidence sent in will be shared and celebrated and will be displayed within the classroom. Disappointingly, after such a successful start in Autumn 1, few children shared their home challenges during Autumn 2. We would love to share more of their work this term!

Spring's home challenge is to learn a new skill. This could be anything that your child has not done before. Here are just a few suggestions:

- Riding a bike
- Swimming a length of the pool
- Skateboarding
- Juggling
- Painting a portrait
- Making their bed
- Making a sandwich
- Fastening their shoe laces
- Cooking/baking
- Joining a new club
- Playing a musical instrument
- A new gymnastics move.

Volunteers

A huge thank you to the regular volunteers who kindly help in Year 1. If you have not already volunteered and would like to help in any way within the classroom, please come and see us to discuss this further. We would love to see more of you, even if you cannot commit to a weekly slot!

Named Clothing

Please ensure that all clothing is regularly checked to ensure that items are clearly labelled (including P.E kit, book bags and water bottles) and are the correct size. During periods of colder weather, please also provide your child with a named hat and gloves. Please ensure that your child brings a named coat to school every day as we will go outside daily, regardless of the weather!



Communication

Please check the Year 1 whiteboard next to the outside door of the Year 1 classroom when picking your child up from school. We will use this to remind you of any upcoming events and to pass on any other general information, in addition to the usual texts and emails. Please remember to let the office know if any of your telephone or email details have changed. As always, we operate an open-door policy, so please speak to a member of the Year 1 team if you have any individual concerns or questions. We are also happy to make an appointment to chat over the phone if you are unable to come to school.

As always, we look forward to lots of fun, adventure and discovery this half term!

Kind regards

Miss Smith, Mrs Bennett and Mrs Rusbridge
Year One

