



Year 1 Spring Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, we would like to welcome the children back to school and wish you all a Happy New Year. We hope you all had a lovely family Christmas and enjoyed spending time together during the school holidays. We would also like to say a huge thank you for all our lovely and very generous Christmas gifts and cards; they were very much appreciated.

Creative Learning:

Our topic this term is called 'Castles, Kings and Queens'. We will be using this theme to inspire as much of our writing lessons as possible alongside traditional tales, keeping within the theme of castles. During our History lessons, we will explore both Motte and Bailey Castles and Concentric Castles, finding out about why and how they were built and how they changed over time, as well as how significant kings and queens contributed to the life of Britain. In Geography, we will learn about the four countries in the UK, including their capital cities and surrounding seas and use our map skills to draw a map of a castle. As part of their experience, the children will have the opportunity to visit Arundel Castle (Tuesday 1st April) and we will be sending out letters regarding our visit shortly.



Reading:



As part of our curriculum, the children participate in reading lessons regularly throughout the week, where they get the opportunity to read a class text and discuss it with their peers. We use these lessons to support their comprehension skills, as well as their reading skills. In addition to these lessons, we endeavour to listen to every child read their own phonics book once a week, however, since reading is an essential skill underpinning many other skills we learn in school, it is vital that they read **every day at home to an adult** (even if it's only 1 or 2 pages depending on their level). If you want to challenge your child further, we ask that you talk about the book with them, e.g. *why do they think a character has done that, why did the author write it like that or choose that particular word, what did (the man) find, what does that word mean?* It is also important that you sign their reading record when they have read so we know when to move them onto new books. You don't always have to make a comment as we know there isn't always the time, but a signature along with the date and title of books would be suffice. Thank you for your support in this and if you have any questions about reading, please do come and see us. **We change the reading books**

on a Tuesday and Friday as there is an expectation that the children will read their book at least twice (ideally three times). Please can you continue however to bring books in every day so that they can read with an adult in school. Thank you. If you yourself have any spare time, we would love to welcome you into school to listen to children read in the afternoons. If you available, please come and speak to us. Thankyou 😊.

PE

Our PE days this term are **Tuesdays and Thursdays**. Children should come into school wearing suitable clothing for PE. Trainers, joggers and a fleece/hoody are required for outdoor PE (Thursdays), especially at this time of year, but children should also have shorts or leggings in school for indoor PE (Tuesdays). Please note plain leggings and jogging bottoms and school coloured PE t-shirts only and not those with other pictures of logos on. Above all, **please make sure that all uniform and PE kits are labelled with your child's name**. We often have jumpers, cardigans, hats and all sorts at the end of the day that have no name and the children are not always able to identify their own belongings.



Homework

Homework will continue to be given out on a Wednesday and should be returned the following Monday / Tuesday.

Drinks and Snacks

We have noticed that quite a few children are bringing squash into school. Please ensure that water bottles are only filled with plain water and feel free to provide squash in their pack lunch (if having). Thank you for your support with this.

Science Animals, including humans. Seasonal changes	History/Geography: Castles, Kings and Queens.	D&T Mechanisms - making a moving story. Textiles and making puppets
RE Jesus as a friend Easter	PSHE Dreams and Goals Healthy Me	PE Gymnastics and Target Games Fitness and Net & Wall Games
Computing Algorithms and Making Objects Move	Music In the groove through Charanga	

It is important that your child feels happy and secure in school, and therefore, please do not hesitate to come and see us if you have any questions or concerns about your child or their learning.

Yours faithfully,

The Year 1 Team