

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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Year 1 Spring Newsletter

12th January 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all. We do hope that you all had a wonderful festive time over the holidays and it has been lovely to hear about the lovely time the children have had. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the very kind and generous Christmas gifts, messages and cards.

The children have shown a great attitude in their return to school and I am sure we will have a successful term full of learning and fun.

English and Maths

In English, during spring we will be investigating and analysing the fiction books Ruby's Worry, Ravi's Roar, Here comes Mr Post Mouse and Stanley's stick. We will also study the poems Oi dog and the Ning, Nang, Nong. After half term, we will continue with our fiction theme look at The little red and the very hungry Lion and study the non fiction book Bats by Megan Cullis. In Maths, we are focusing on doubling, halving, odd and even numbers and properties of 2D and 3D shapes.

Foundation Subjects

In Geography this term, we will be looking at the local area. Children will start by learning what Geography is – the study of people and places. They will learn the 4 nations of the United Kingdom before looking closely at the local area, particularly the human and physical features. For History, we will be learning about Florence Nightingale, Edith Cavell and Mary Seacole. We will compare and contrast their lives, and the impact they had on society. In science, we will be learning about animals, how we can group them and what is special about them. In PSHE, we are celebrating ourselves and what makes us special. In Music, this term's focus is tempo and dynamics and then pulse, rhythm and pitch. In PE we are taking part in basketball, dance and team games.

Homework, Spellings and Reading

Homework will continue to be given half termly. This half term's suggested activities will be sent home with your child today. Homework will then be shared on the last Friday before the holidays. We have been very impressed with the range of creative homework activities so far and can't wait to see what you and the children come up with this half term.

Spellings will be given out every Thursday. Please can the children learn these for a short spelling test the following Thursday.

Reading books should be brought to school **daily** along with your child's reading record. As previously discussed, we can't emphasise enough the importance of your child reading daily to you at home to support their reading and fluency skills. Reading books are given out according to your child's current phonological knowledge and many of the books include a page with the sounds found in the book – we highly recommend you ask your child to read the sounds before you start reading the book. Please do record when you have read with your child as we use this for their reading certificates. Awards will be given when children have



read at home 50 times, then 100 etc. Well done to those who have already reached the 50 Bronze Award and beyond!!

P.E. Kits and Uniform

Our P.E. days are on a **Monday (Dance) and Wednesday (outside)** this half term. On these days, please ensure your child is wearing the following:

- Blue t-shirt (with the Westfield logo)
- Black or navy shorts / joggers or leggings
- Blue jumper (Westfield hoodie, Westfield school jumper or cardigan)
- Trainers

There should not be any other coloured items being worn. Please also ensure that your child is not wearing any branded items with large logo's on them. Thank you.

We will also continue with the Daily Mile every day.

Please **ensure all clothing / belongings are named**, we do our best to track down lost items but from time to time things do go missing. Attempting to find the owner of one jumper is very difficult if there is no name on it, and wastes a lot of learning time!

Finally, if you have any concerns about your child's welfare or progress please do not hesitate to come and see us. We may have to make an appointment but often we can deal with matters immediately. The end of the school day is preferable to the morning as we are busy encouraging the children to settle quickly and begin our day.

We thank you for your continued support.

Kind Regards

Mrs Ramm, Mrs Edwards and the Year 1 Team

Key Dates for your diary:

Open Learning Morning (Parents Welcome) – Friday 2nd February

Feel Good Week – 5th to 9th February

Safer Internet Day – Tuesday 6th February

Parents Evening – Tuesday 13th and Thursday 15th February

Home Learning Celebration in class – Friday 16th February

Half Term – Monday 19th to Friday 23rd February

World Book Day – Thursday 7th March

RockSteady Concert – Friday 15th March

Home Learning Celebration in class – Wednesday 27th March

End of Term – Thursday 28th March at 1:30pm