



Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and are looking forward to the new year. The children are fully settled in Kestrel class now and I am so proud of the way they are handling challenges every day. They all have such positive attitudes towards their learning and persevere in everything they do. I know this term is going to be a short but amazing term for me and the children.

Our topic this term is 'In the Dark'. Our focus will be all around Nocturnal animals and things that go on during the night time. The children will be doing their own research around these animals and sharing their new knowledge on these animals with each other.

SATs

As you know, the children will be doing SATs during the month of May. The children have already been exposed to practise papers in a relaxed setting. I am not calling these tests SATs, I am calling them challenges and explaining to the children that it is just to show me what they can do and what they might need a bit more help with.

I will be starting to send home some SATs style questions for the children to have a go at. If they need help with these questions that is fine, can you just write next that question 'support'.

PE and games

PE will be on a Wednesday and a Friday. We will be doing PE outside and inside so please ensure your children have the correct kit and shoes.

Phonics

We have changed the way we do phonics in the whole of KS1. The children are assessed at least every 5-6 weeks and are put in groups with other children who are at the same level. In these groups the children will focus on new sounds that they either struggle with or are not familiar with and then will read a book in pairs that is matched at their ability. This means that the children should have no gaps in their phonic knowledge and are reading every day which will help with their fluency. The children may be send home with a sheet of green and red words, please practise these with them as they are suppose to be able to read them speedily.

Home learning

I expect the children to be reading at least 5 times a week. I do not expect this to be a whole book but a little bit of reading a day will make a great different. The children are expected to be able to read 90 words in 1 minute by the end of Year 2, which is basically a fluent reader who occasionally hesitates on some words.



You do not need to always read a book, the children can do reading in so many different ways. The books that the children are taking home are now staged in colours rather than stages. These books will be matched to their level, but this does not mean they cannot read other books they have at home or get from the library.

Spelling tests will be on a Monday and they will be given their new spellings on Tuesday. The spellings they are given will be linked to the phonics they are doing in their phonic groups. Homework will be given out on a Tuesday and the children will have 2 weeks to complete it.

A love for learning is an attitude I want to create in every area of the curriculum. In Maths, the children need to practise their 2, 3, 5 and 10 times table, using money and counting to 100. You can help your children learn these through games and songs.

The children also have Spellodrome and Mathletics usernames and passwords. The children are expected to get 1000 points a week. It will help your children a lot using these websites to consolidate their learning in Year 2.

Finally, if there is anything you wish to discuss with me, please do not hesitate to make an appointment with me.

Yours sincerely,

Amy Everett