

Year 1 Newsletter - Autumn Term 2018

Hello everyone! We all welcome you back for another year of fun and games at the Prince of Wales as your children begin the next chapter in their education. It is a privilege to teach this fantastic group of children and whilst I am excited to continue our learning journey there are some new faces that will be joining us this year...



Mrs Webb (Senior Teaching Assistant) Miss White (Trainee Teacher)

Things to Remember...

- Healthy Snacks - We are a healthy school and we will be persistent in our push for children to bring in a healthy snack/lunch to school. Fruit is always freely available to all children at break time.
- We have a 48 hour policy for sickness.
- Please inform us if your child is absent from school and bring in any letters for appointments.
- Please continually check your child's book bag for letters/books/certificates. Letters will be coming home on a Wednesday.
- Attendance Matters - We were top of the charts last year for our attendance as a class - it would be brilliant if we could repeat that feat!

Dates

- **Friday 7th September 8.45am** - Parent Forum - all welcome
- **Tuesday 11th September 9.00am** - There will be lots of information shared during our Parent Information Session on if you are able to make this date.
- **W/C 24th September** - Farming Fortnight
- **Date TBC** - Maiden Castle Farm Visit (Harvest)
- **Friday 5th October** - Harvest Festival and AUTUMNFEST!
- **Tuesday/Wednesday 16th/17th October** - Parents Evenings
- **Wednesday 14th November** - Photos (Individual and Sibling)
- **Friday 23rd November** - Year 1 Class Assembly
- **Friday 14th December** - Christmas Technology Day
- **Tuesday 18th - Thursday 20th December** - Christmas Performances

Kits

We will be having our PE lessons on a **Thursday and Friday** and just like last year, there is a red box to place PE kits in to in the cloakroom area.

Also this year we are very lucky to be having a Forest School input on a **Wednesday afternoon**. Please could we ask that, just like last year, all children have a pair of wellies and wet clothes in school. Baring a monsoon we will be aiming to get outside.

Spelling

Once we start to get stuck in to this term, we will be sending home weekly spellings for children to learn. Much more will follow on this.

Self-Registration

Please note that we are continuing with children self-registering themselves in the morning when they come in. Whilst this years format is a little different it is still a vital part of our day and hopefully this will quickly become routine.

Learning

As last year, we will base a large portion of our learning in the context of a topic. Our topic for the first half term is **'Sailing Away to the Galapagos'**. Lots of exciting learning happening here and we will continue to share what we are up to via the blog and Marvellous Me (see opposite). Please also see below for more information on our new approach to Literacy.

Marvellous Me!

How many times do you ask your child what they did today at school and you get a 'Nothing' or 'Don't know?' Well, no more! Marvellous Me! Is an online tool and app that aims to share the wide range of activities and learning that can happen in any given day. You will be able to see the **rewards** your child has **personally** received as well as any messages and learning that could be followed up at home. The rewards work very similarly to Class Dojo which the children used last year to great effect. More information will be shared about this very soon.

Literacy Approach - Phonics, SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) and Reading -

This September, we have made some changes across the school to support greater progress for all children in Literacy. These changes come with a particular focus on children's development of Phonic, Spelling, Punctuation, Grammar and Reading skills.

Our changes build on the success of the 'Ruth Miskin: Read, Write Inc. Phonics Programme' which we started using in Reception and Year 1 last year and now include the introduction of 'Ruth Miskin: Read Write Inc. Spelling Programme' and the use of 'AR (Accelerated Reader)' for children in Year 1 to Year 4.

An overview of each programme is included below -

Read Write Inc. Phonics teaches children to read accurately and fluently with good comprehension. They learn to form each letter, spell correctly, and compose their ideas step-by-step.

Reading - Children learn the English alphabetic code: first they learn one way to read the 40+ sounds and blend these sounds into words, then learn to read the same sounds with alternative graphemes.

They experience success from the very beginning. Lively phonic books are closely matched to their increasing knowledge of phonics and 'tricky' words and, as children re-read the stories, their fluency increases.

Along with a thought-provoking introduction, prompts for thinking out loud and discussion, children are helped to read with a storyteller's voice.

Writing -

The children write every day, rehearsing out loud what they want to say, before spelling the words using the graphemes and 'tricky' words they know.

They practise handwriting every day: sitting at a table comfortably, they learn correct letter formation and how to join letters speedily and legibly.

Children's composition (ideas, vocabulary and grammar) is developed by drawing on their own experiences and talking about the stories they read.

All staff who teach **Read Write Inc. Phonics** have received two days of official Ruth Miskin Ltd Training and benefit from ongoing official training opportunities that take place at The Prince of Wales School. Ongoing support is provided by **Read Write Inc. Phonics** expert Kirsten McKenzie.

Children accessing the **Read Write Inc. Phonics** programme will not bring home weekly spellings, instead they will be encouraged to practise the sounding-out and blending of sounds. Which sounds need to be practised (green cards) and which sounds need to be learnt (red cards) will be made clear by your child's teacher.

You can find out more about the programme here - <https://ruthmiskin.com/en/programmes/phonics/>

Read Write Inc. Spelling is for children who can read accurately, with increasing speed. With 15 minutes of daily teaching, children develop confident spelling.

Although the teaching of phoneme-grapheme correspondence underpins this programme, it also develops children's knowledge of word families, how suffixes impact upon root words, and provides mnemonics to remember the trickiest spellings.

The teaching revolves around instruction (with the help of online alien characters), partner and group practice, and competitive group challenges that help children commit new words to memory.

All staff who teach **Read Write Inc. Spelling** have received one full day of official Ruth Miskin Ltd Training and benefit from ongoing official training opportunities that take place at The Prince of Wales School. Ongoing support is provided by **Read Write Inc. Spelling** expert Kirsten McKenzie.

Children accessing the **Read Write Inc. Spelling** programme will not bring home weekly spellings, instead they will bring home a log book daily. The log book will include spellings the children need to practice at home on a daily basis. The approach required will be made clear by your child's teacher.

You can find out more about the programme here - <https://ruthmiskin.com/en/programmes/spelling/>

For both **Read Write Inc. Phonics** and **Read Write Inc. Spelling** all children are assessed regularly by our RWI Lead (Mrs. Smith) so they work with children at the same level. This allows complete participation in lessons.

AR (Accelerated Reader) is a reading programme that helps teachers support and monitor children's reading practice. Your child picks a book at their own level and reads it at their own pace. When finished, your child takes a short online quiz to measure how much of the book they understood.

You can find out more about the programme here - <https://www.renaissance.com/services/parent-resources/>

More information about AR (Accelerated Reader) will be sent home in due course. Teaching Staff will be receiving specialist AR (Accelerated Reader) training on Monday 24th September 2018.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead!

Yours faithfully,

Mr. Chris Gibson
Year 1 Class Teacher