

# EYNESHAM COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## Year 1 Term 3/4 Newsletter

Welcome back and a Happy New Year to you all; we hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year break. It is wonderful to see the children settling back into their classes from a very exciting time of the year. They have returned full of enthusiasm and have lots of exciting stories to tell about their Christmas holidays. We have another exciting term of activities planned, with new learning challenges in all curriculum areas. We can't wait to get started!

### NEW TOPICS:

As part of a joint EPA partnership activity all year 1 children across the EPA partnership are going to be exploring the same book 'On a Magical Do-Nothing Day'. This picture book is compelling and magical and one which we are sure the children will enjoy discovering. It's reminiscent of Michael Rosen's 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt', celebrating the sights, sounds and squelchiness of the outdoors!

Following on from the EPA partnership activity we will focus on our new, stimulating topic this term called 'Dungeons, Dragons and Castles' which we are sure will prove to be very popular with all our children. We are always looking for ways to access the curriculum in a fun, engaging and motivating way, if you feel that you have any expertise or know anyone who has any links to our topic, we would love to hear from you.

### CLOTHES:

PE slots have changed this term, we would therefore like PE kits (plain white t-shirt and black shorts) to be brought to school on Monday and left at school until Friday so that they are accessible throughout the week. As the weather is cold please ensure that children have both indoor and outdoor PE clothes, including PE shoes.

We would also like to remind you of the school dress code, please ensure children are wearing the correct school uniform:

- Red sweatshirts, cardigans or summer dresses
- Grey trousers, skirts or pinafore dresses
- Black, grey or white socks
- Red or grey tights
- White polo shirts

### NAME LABELLING:

Due to the Christmas growth and new clothes and equipment bought over the holidays, we would like to make a plea that all children's belongings, especially clothing, shoes, bags and lunchboxes are clearly labelled. This ensures that if something does get misplaced we have a greater chance to return it to the correct owner. Children should also bring in a labelled water bottle.



## **YEAR 1 PRIORITIES AND SUPPORTING LEARNING AT HOME:**

In Year 1 we are continuously assessing the children's knowledge and understanding in all areas of the curriculum. Specific priority areas that we have identified as needing to be tackled this term are:

**Reading:** Increasing children's comprehension of texts. - **This can be done by asking questions about your child's book, asking them to recall the story they have read, How did the characters feel during the story?, What will happen next?, If you were the writer would you have ended the story differently? Etc.**

**Writing:** Focussing on the formation and direction of letters. **Help your child by practising forming letters using paint, mud, water, sand, felt tip pens etc.**

**Maths:** Count to 100 forwards and backwards. **Practise at home by counting stones, windows, steps, and cutlery. Count forwards and backwards starting from different numbers.**

These areas are general to each year group however each child will have particular areas to focus on. If you would like more information about your child's own targets please see their class teacher. Targets for Reading, Writing and Maths will also be sent home as part of your child's report at the end of Term 4.

## **HOMEWORK:**

**Reading** - Thank you for all of your home support with reading, we have been really pleased with the children's clear enjoyment of reading and motivation to read. We always strive to change each child's school reading book and read with my family book once a week, however we do not want this to stop children from enjoying other texts. Please use the local library and books from home as additional reading resources. **Please ensure that your child brings their school book and reading diary to school every day.**

Please listen, read and share stories as often as you can with your children and keep a record in their reading diary. On a Friday we operate a reading reward scheme - children who read at least 4 times a week at home and have their reading recorded in their reading diary will receive a reading star sticker on their chart in their reading diary.

**Spellings** – This term we will send home 6 spellings each week which will be tested the following Friday. Spellings will either link to a specific area of phonics, spelling pattern or common exception word. Please remember to learn these; and other words using the same sound, individually and within sentences, as this is when most children make mistakes.

**Big Maths Learn Its** – On a Friday children will participate in Big Maths Beat That which is a weekly timed challenge of your child's Learn Its. Attached is a copy of your child's current Learn It to practice at home and the aim is for each child to **beat their previous score**. It is not a competition between the class, but a way to celebrate each child's progression. You can help your child to improve their scores, by asking them to give instant responses to their Learn Its while at home, on the journey to school and throughout the day at the weekend! Little and very often is the key to success, so the information enters the long term memory.

## **COMMUNICATION:**

It is extremely important to everyone in the Year 1 team that we are all very approachable and work with an open door policy. We encourage all Parents and Carers to talk to Teachers and Teaching Assistants if you have any thoughts, worries or concerns.

Please take time to read the attached Topic planning overview to get a feel for the activities that the children will be covering during this topic.

If you have any questions about anything covered in this letter please see a member of our team.

Yours sincerely

**Year 1 Team**

