

EYNSHAM COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Tuesday 24th April 2018

Year 1 Summer Term 5/6 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope you all had a wonderful Easter. The children have been sharing their stories of fun and are very excited about the topic ahead.

NEW TOPIC:

Our new topic is Seaside and Oceans, please refer to the curriculum map attached which gives further information.

THEME DAY:

Year 1 and 2 will be celebrating this exciting topic with a very special day in school. Nearer the end of term 6 we will ensure a sunny day is forecast and have an amazing day of fun with seaside themed games, activities and more. Although this cannot replace a trip to the beach, we have a fantastic day of fun planned and will not have to spend any time on a coach!

PE:

With our May Day celebrations coming around quickly, we will be learning a dance to show you and one for you to participate in! We will therefore need our plain white T-shirt and black shorts as usual, but will also need outdoor running shoes until the end of term six, as we then move onto athletics. Please update PE kits and ensure it is in school Monday to Friday so that they are accessible throughout the week.

During the inset-training teachers worked at Bartholomew School to learn more about 'Real PE'. This will continue the great PE we already enjoy in our lessons here, but has a greater emphasis on skills. The pack is bursting with games, which will soon be shared in school and your children may be teaching some of these with you at home.

SWIMMING LESSONS:

After half term children will take part in a 45-minute swimming lesson. All children must bring:

- Swimming costume (no bikinis), trunks or shorts
- Swimming hat
- Towel
- Sun cream applied before school if weather is hot
- Earrings must be removed before school

Please make sure that all items of clothing are labelled in a plastic (waterproof) bag. All children will also need a warm school jumper to wear after their session.

READING REMINDERS:

We continue to thank you for all of your home support with reading. As the new homework format is rolled out, we would like to stress our reading system of 4 slots a week for a sticker continues with your child's existing reading record. There is no change to the KS1 reading expectations/ recording. Please ensure your child's reading book and reading record are brought into school every day.

HOMEWORK:

This term, there are some changes to Year 1 homework. All children have been issued with a yellow homework book, which will be sent home on a Friday and returned to school on a Wednesday. Homework expectations are:

1. **Spellings** - these will focus on the phonemes and graphemes that the children have been learning in school and the year 1 common exception words. Children should practice these and other words using the same sound, individually and within sentences. For information spelling strategies and a list of the year 1 common exception words taken from the National Curriculum of recommended words they should be confident spelling are in the homework book.



2. **Big Maths Learn Its** – Please continue to practice your child’s Big Maths Learn Its. On Wednesdays children will participate in Big Maths Beat That, which is a weekly timed challenge of your child’s Learn Its; 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, in order for the information to enter the long-term memory. A copy of your child’s current Learn It is in the back of the homework book and will be updated as they progress through the levels.

PHONICS SCREENING:

In term 6 children will complete the Key Stage One phonics screening check. All schools are required to complete this with all children in Year 1 and children in Year 2 who didn’t reach the required standard when they were in Year 1. We approach this task sensitively and work positively with the children. The children are asked to read 40 words divided into two sections of 20 words. Both sections contain a mixture of real words and pseudo-words (non-words). The pseudo words are included because children can’t read them using their memory or vocabulary, so they must use their phonic decoding skills. The children often complete activities in school using pseudo words so this approach is not new to them. Please help your children at home by practising reading real and pseudo phonic words and look for examples to practise in the reading books they bring home. You are welcome to ask the class teachers for help if you are struggling with phonics yourself – don’t be embarrassed – lots of adults do need support because phonics was not necessarily taught in this way when they were at school. We can provide some materials to help. For information a copy of the caption actions children have learnt are in the homework book.

GENERAL REMINDERS:

For the summer term please ensure children have a water bottle, sun hat and sun cream in school.

CONTRIBUTIONS:

Many, many thanks to all who have made weekly or a ‘lump sum’ donation to our class pot. The suggested weekly donation of 50p enables us to purchase all the items that do not come from the curriculum budget. This adds to the daily and termly enrichment we strive to provide.

MAY DAY:

We will be celebrating May Day on Thursday 3rd May, children can wear smart clothes and must wear sensible shoes suitable for dancing. Children can also wear ‘spring’ decorated hats.

Key Dates for Term 5

Thursday 3rd May: May Day celebrations
Friday 4th May: May Day backup
Monday 7th May: Bank Holiday Monday
Tuesday 22nd May: Class photographs
Wednesday 23rd May: Class photographs
Friday 25th May: 3.05 pm end of term 5
Monday 4th June: INSET day
Tuesday 5th June: Term 6 commences
Monday 25th June: EPA KS1 Sports Day, Tilsley Park, 10.00 – 1.00
Saturday 30th June: PTA Summer Fair

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

Yours sincerely

The Year 1 team:

Louise James – Rabbit class teacher
Kate Keen – Squirrel class teacher
Sarah Rayfield – Squirrel class teaching assistant
Natasha Howell – Rabbit class teaching assistant

