



Spring Newsletter Year One

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Spring Term 1! We hope you had a restful break and are ready for another exciting term of learning and discovery. Below is an overview of what your child will be learning this half term and how you can support them at home.

What We've Been Learning

English

This term, our English learning is based around the traditional tale *The Little Red Hen*. We will be using the story to develop reading, writing and grammar skills at a deeper Year 1 level.

The children will be learning to:

- Retell the story in the correct sequence using story language.
- Identify **nouns** (people, places, things) and **verbs** (actions).
- Write expanded simple sentences using a subject and verb (e.g., *The Little Red Hen baked the bread.*).
- Use capital letters, full stops, and begin to use conjunctions such as *and* and *because*.
- Write simple instructions (e.g., how to make bread).
- Describe characters using adjectives.

How you can help at home:

- Read *The Little Red Hen* together and ask your child to retell the story.
- Help them identify nouns and verbs in sentences.
- Encourage them to write simple sentences about baking or farm animals.
- Practise spelling common exception words regularly.

Phonics

We are continuing our daily phonics lessons in preparation for the **Phonics Screening Check** in the Summer Term.

This half term, we are focusing on **split digraphs**.



A split digraph is when two letters work together to make one sound but are split by another letter. For example:

- a-e as in *cake*
- i-e as in *time*
- o-e as in *home*
- u-e as in *cube*
- e-e as in *these*

The children will practise reading both real and nonsense (alien) words confidently and accurately.

How you can help at home:

- Practise reading words with split digraphs.
- Encourage your child to spot the “special friends” (the two letters making one sound).
- Read regularly and revisit phonics sounds daily.
- Practise reading nonsense words to build confidence for the screening check.

Maths

This half term we are focusing on **Place Value within 20**.

The children will learn to:

- Count forwards and backwards within 20.
- Understand tens and ones (e.g., 14 is 1 ten and 4 ones).
- Represent numbers using tens frames, part-part-whole models and practical equipment.
- Compare and order numbers within 20.
- Use grouping and sharing to build early understanding of multiplication and division.

We are also beginning to prepare for times tables by focusing on **equal groups** and practising the **2 times table**.

You can practise the 2 times table at home using this song:

🎵 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGWMPqh04o4>

Regular practice will help children build confidence and fluency.



How you can help at home:

- Practise counting in 2s to 20.
- Use small objects (e.g., pasta, toys) to make equal groups.
- Ask questions such as, “If I have 2 plates with 2 biscuits on each plate, how many biscuits are there altogether?”
- Discuss tens and ones when looking at numbers (e.g., “How many tens? How many ones?”).

Science – Everyday Materials

In Science, we are learning about **everyday materials and their properties**.

The children will:

- Identify and name materials such as wood, plastic, metal, glass, fabric and paper.
- Describe properties (hard, soft, smooth, rough, waterproof, absorbent, flexible, rigid).
- Investigate which materials are suitable for different purposes.
- Compare and sort materials based on their properties.

How you can help at home:

- Talk about the materials used in everyday objects around your home.
- Ask your child to describe how objects feel.
- Discuss why certain materials are used for particular objects (e.g., Why is a raincoat waterproof?).

Important Reminders

- **PE Day:** Thursday – please ensure your child wears appropriate PE clothing.
- **Water Bottles:** Send a labelled water bottle daily.
- **Labelled Clothing:** Please ensure all clothing is clearly labelled.

How You Can Help at Home

- Read daily and practise phonics sounds, especially split digraphs.
- Practise counting in 2s and learning the 2 times table.
- Discuss tens and ones in numbers to 20.
- Explore materials around your home and talk about their properties.
- Encourage independence with dressing, organising belongings and managing homework tasks.



Contact Us

We are always here to support you and your child. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to us at drop-off or pick-up, or contact us through the school office.

We look forward to a fantastic term of learning and progress!

Best wishes,

Mrs. Brotherton and the Year 1 Team