

Dear Parents and Children,

I hope you had a relaxing half term break and are looking forward to the new half term.

Reading at home

Please continue to read daily at home with you child and sign next to the book title in the yellow Reading Record. I would like to stress that you do not need to read a whole book every night. It is much better to read just a few pages and discuss tricky words, reading strategies and talk about the book to improve comprehension.

Homework

This half term children will continue to be given spellings each Friday to be learnt for a test the following Friday. These will continue to be phonetic words that children can 'sound out' using the phonemes we have learnt so far, but I will also begin to include more challenging 'tricky words' that do not follow usual rules to increase the challenge and help children with their reading and writing.

Uniform

Please can I remind you that all uniform and possessions brought into school, including spare socks/ underwear/ swimming hats, must be labelled. These small items tend to be the ones that are left unclaimed in the classroom.

Year 1 subjects for this half term

The cross-curricular theme for this term is 'ice and snow'. An exciting new development for this half term is the introduction of a 'personalised learning' session where your child will be supported in exploring whichever aspect of this theme they find most interesting using a variety of media. The theme will also inform all subjects where relevant and real links can be made. Topics to be covered in each subject include:

- English: Stories with predictable and patterned language, Norwegian folk tales, instructions, recounts and dictionary work.
- Maths: Number facts (counting up and down in 1s, 2s, 10s, finding numbers that add to 10 etc.), 2D and 3D shapes, calculating
- Science: Sorting and using materials
- Design and Technology (D&T): Designing and making clothes to keep warm in the snow
- History: Antarctic explorers
- Geography: Norway
- French: The weekend, shopping, at the swimming pool, Christmas
- Personal, Health and Social Education (PSHE): 'Say No to Bullying', being good friends
- Religious Education (RE): Celebrations, Christmas in other countries
- Art: Painting cold climates in the style of Eric Carle
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT): What I can use computers for
- Your children will also continue to have music and PE lessons twice a week with specialist teachers and will go swimming on a Tuesday.

Many of you asked how you could further support your child's learning by discussing the topics we cover in school. I hope the above helps with this. May I also recommend the exhibition at the National History Museum, 'Ice Station Antarctica', open until April 2008. <http://www.nhm.ac.uk/visit-us/whats-on/temporary-exhibitions/ice-station-antarctica/index.html>

Date for the diary

Class theatre trip: 16th November.

Yours,

Miss Jodie Howard