



## Primary 1 Newsletter - Term 2

Welcome to our first Primary 1 newsletter! We hope you had a wonderful October break. Here you will find information about what is going on in Primary 1 this term.

### Literacy -

Children will continue to learn 3 sounds a week, which you will see displayed in the classroom windows. Magnetic letters will still be issued for the week on a Monday - please take these out of your child's red bag and use them to reinforce what we have been learning in class. We are working on building 3 letter words using the sounds and some children are ready to start making and writing these words. We have been introducing a tricky word a week. Tricky words are words which can not be sounded out and just need to be learned for reading and writing (words like I, the, to, go). Once we have covered a few, we will send them home for you to practise. Please try to spend a short time each night revising sounds, tricky words and building words with your child.

Some children are ready to start reading and books will be sent home, along with a reading diary. Please use the diary to record how your child is getting on at home. We welcome your feedback and like to use these as a way to communicate with you about your child's reading. All children will have the opportunity to bring home a shared reader for you to enjoy reading together.

### Numeracy and Maths -

We have been focusing on developing the children's number knowledge by counting forwards and backwards from different starting numbers. We have also been looking at recognising dot patterns automatically without counting the dots. Lots of our time in Numeracy is spent talking about the connections within number, how numbers are made up and how the children arrive at an answer. This helps the children to explain their thinking, strengthening their number knowledge, which is so important at this stage. You can support your child by practising counting backwards from different starting places (within 10/20/30/100) as this is something that all children find trickier.

In Maths we have been looking at 2D shape, recognising a range of shapes and using mathematical language to describe their properties. The children have loved the practical element of this topic, especially enjoying building pictures using shapes.

### Learning Across the Curriculum -

Our Discovery Zone allows us to use the children's interests to plan topics. So far we have looked at weddings, friendship and the importance of sharing, growth mindset through stories and more recently, magnets, electrical circuits and animal food chains. We are always looking for things to enhance learning such as nuts and bolts, wire, corks, old CDs, natural materials, old electrical equipment and of course, junk for our junk modelling area. Friday could be 'bring it in day!'

Our next area for improvement is developing our outdoor learning space - you will already have seen that we are looking for items for our outdoor area. If you are able to support us in any way, from providing materials to building us some storage/play items then please get in touch with the school office. We are very excited about this and would love some parental support to help us!

### Parent Helpers -

We would love to hear from parents (or grandparents!) who would be willing to spare some time to support the children. It is always appreciated having additional adults who could play games with groups of children, supervise craft activities, share stories, or share a special talent. Please get in touch with your child's teacher if you are able to come in to help us.

### Nativity -

We will be starting to prepare for our Nativity this term. Be prepared for lots of songs, perhaps a line to learn and of course, costumes! Our Nativity is on 15<sup>th</sup> December (further details will follow).

### Ideas for Learning at Home -

**Literacy:** look for sounds/tricky words in newspapers and highlight them

**Number:** collect autumnal items and make a number/shape picture

### Vision, Values and Expectations

We recently launched our new Bonnyrigg Vision:

'Today we achieve. Tomorrow we make a difference.'

Our core values are:

Safe, Achieving, Confident and Happy

Our expectations for all in our school community are that we are:

Safe, Respectful and Ready to Learn

Miss Ferguson, Mrs Pettigrew, Mrs Douglas and

Miss Brady