

Lower School One Newsletter November / December 2018

Welcome back. I hope you've all had a relaxing half term and are ready for the long run up to Christmas. Please come and see me if you have any questions, concerns or would just like more information.

Topic: The topic for this term will be **Memory Box**, this will involve looking at changes in their life time, starting with babies and memories that they have. We'll look at special occasions and how these are celebrated including a christening for the dolls, birthdays and Christmas. We'll also look at some events from days before they were born and talk about what History is. They will make a memory box to keep special things in. (Please see the Things To Do section at the bottom of this newsletter). Hopefully we will have an afternoon playing traditional games, if you are willing to help with this please let me know, so I can make the necessary plans.

Mathematics: will continue to develop skills for counting, reading, writing and ordering numbers. There will be an emphasis on developing oral and mental skills, including quick recall of addition and subtraction facts of all numbers to 10, recall of pairs of numbers with a total of 10 counting forwards and backwards in ones, twos and tens. They will be encouraged to apply their knowledge to solve simple problems and investigations, as well as explaining the method they used.

Reading will continue to be an important part of the curriculum. The children will continue to read individually to an adult in school, and will share texts as a class linked to the topic and also as the story of the week. Year One children will also take part in small group guided reading sessions and the reading trial in collaboration with Coventry and York Universities. They will be encouraged to expect texts to make sense and to go back and check where this is not the case.

Please support your child by listening to your child read at home as often as possible and please sign the reading record as this helps us to monitor progress.

Their **phonic and spelling skills** will be developed through letter sounds, blends, letter clusters, vowel digraphs, rhyming words and plurals.

The children will also be **writing** through a variety. Reception will be focusing on writing letters clearly and accurately, while Year One will develop their skills through writing sentences and simple stories.

Writing is a complex skill that needs lots of reinforcement so please encourage your child to write at home.

Activities to try:

Sharing and discussing stories and books, including non-fiction and poems.

Writing Christmas cards, Christmas lists, letters to Santa, thank you letters or anything that interests them.

Cooking: Following recipes, counting, measuring and weighing items.

Playing games together. (I went shopping ... board games etc quick fire maths questions)

Computer based games: try sites like Top marks (www.topmarks.co.uk) or Phonics Play (www.phonicsplay.co.uk) Oxford Owls (ClassHH), www.doorwayonline.org.uk



Water Bottles: Please make sure your child has a **plastic bottle filled with water (no juice, thank you)**. Bottles need to be stored in the orchard. Please can you ensure that the bottle is filled and cleaned regularly and is named.

Physical Development: P.E. will take place on Tuesday afternoons and will be delivered by On-side Coaching. Please remember that they need to come dressed in jogging bottoms, school PE T-shirt and school jumpers on a Tuesday.

Remember all diary dates and further information are available on the school website and weekly newsletters.



To support our topic work please send into school:

A **photograph** of your child as a baby (remember to put their name on the back).
An empty **shoe box**.