



Year R/1 Newsletter Term 5

April 2019

Dear Parents/Carers, welcome back! I hope you all had a relaxing break enjoying the glorious Easter weather and are refreshed and eager to return to school. This is a wonderful time of year and we are really looking forward to an exciting and very busy term ahead of us.

Our term five topic 'Pirates and Under the Sea' has generated great excitement. We will link our theme with some wonderful picture books including: 'The Troll' and 'The Snail and the Whale' by Julia Donaldson.' We are also learning a journey story 'Pirate Tom' and a non-chronological report about Dolphins.

Our role-play areas are; 'The Jolly Roger' (Pirate Ship) and our small world this term is; 'Pirate Island and the Ocean. We have set up a 'galley' and would love lots of old vegetables for the children to cut up outside in the (Pirate Kitchen). The children will love making lots of disgusting Pirate grub to eat! Please send in any unwanted vegetables or anything linked to these themes for us to use and share.

To encourage reading, we have sent home a new reading folder which we would like you to return daily. Please record your comments in the reading record when your child reads and return this daily. Please read the book through several times to help build fluency and ask your child to retell the story using the picture cues. Reading is an essential life skill and forms the basis of all early Literacy. We would really appreciate your support in helping your child achieve their full potential.

Although this is a relatively short term, we shall be busy making lots of pirate ships and testing the best materials to use to ensure the pirates can 'sail the seven seas.' To help us with this, please send in lots of different, **clean** household rubbish such as; plastic bottles, bubble wrap, egg cartons, and scraps of fabric for making sails, silver foil, yoghurt pots and whatever else you may have discarded at home.

Our curriculum focus this term in phonics will be Phase 3 Letters and Sounds for Year R and Phase 5 for Year 1. We shall be concentrating on blending sounds for reading and segmenting sounds for spelling. Please encourage your child to read and practise blending every day for about 10 minutes as little and often is the key.

As our phonics focus is blending and segmenting, please ask your child to highlight digraphs in the text to help them make vital links between phonics and real reading in books. Our Maths focus is Number Bonds to 10/20 and beyond and learning about numbers to 100. Please encourage your child to learn these so that they can use instant recall.

I would also like your child to learn lots of different ways of representing number bonds to 10/20. We are learning about variation and to talk about our reasoning in maths to develop mastery skills so please help support your child in developing this. They could draw pictures to represent 10/20 objects; use numbers; counters; real objects or anything else they can think of.

Thank you, Archimedes Class

Mrs Messenger

Miss Court

&

Mrs Hardy