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5.1.26

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year!

We hope that you were all able to enjoy a happy, healthy and memorable Christmas and that the coming year is full of joy!

This Spring newsletter continues **lots** of information, here goes...

- **Arrival/collecting children:**
The gates are opened just before 830am when the children are welcomed onto the playground and head into class for registration at 835am. Please continue to give any messages to the member of staff on duty at the gate. If you arrive after this, the gate will be locked so please bring your child to the office so they can be registered and order their lunch. If your child is being collected by someone different please let us know either via email or by calling the Office. To ensure your children's safety, if we do not receive a message about alternative arrangements, we will contact you to check and thank you for your understanding with this.
- **Home Learning:** your first home learning for the Spring term will be sent home on Wednesday 14th January. We will send this via email, upload to Tapestry and upload it to our class page on the school website. Thank you for your ongoing support with this. Remember to upload any home learning to Tapestry as we love to see it and share it with the class and the children earn themselves a team point!
- **Reading:** we continue to hear children read and change books, if appropriate, once a week. See table below for when your child's team books get changed.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Chestnuts	Limes	Oaks	Sycamores

- Just a reminder:

Our reading books are linked to our phonics scheme, Phonics Shed so contain the phonics and common exception words the children have been taught to date.

Your child brings home one phonics book and a second, 'share with me', book clearly marked with a **star** on the front cover. This book may contain words with sounds or common exception words the children have not yet been taught. The children are **not expected** to be able to read this book by themselves. You can read/share the book together. You can use the 'share with me' book to work on some of the skills from your reading bookmark such as predicting what might happen next or answering questions about what they have read/shared.

Please remember, the books we send your child home to read support how we teach them to read at school in our phonic and whole class reading lessons. The phonics books are matched to the phase your child is working within. Your child should be able to read/decode a good proportion of the books applying what we learn at school. On the first read of the book, some words they will be able to decode using their phonic knowledge and some words they will need to learn to 'unlock' as they may contain phonemes that the children haven't been taught yet. As they become more familiar with the books, use the reading bookmarks to explore the books further practising skills such as learning new vocabulary, fluency, inference and retrieval. Hearing your child read regularly; a short session as often as you can is best. Thank you so much for your support with this! If you need any support, help or ideas please come and ask or email us – we are happy to help!

We continue with daily Whole Class Reading sessions at school which support your child with developing their reading further, focussing on skills such as learning new vocabulary, fluency, inference and retrieval.

- If your child reads at home 5 times a week (reading books or practising phonics / words) they get a team point and their name will be entered in to a draw to win a book, every week. The winner will be drawn during each celebration assembly. The more weeks they achieve this, the more chance there will be of winning. Every time you read with your child please sign the reading record book and write an '**H**' in a circle so that we can see at a quick glance what the total number is. On your child's book change day we will count up the 'H's' from the previous week and draw a highlighted line to indicate that the count starts again.

- Golden Reader: each week we choose a child to be the Golden Reader for the week and they get to read on the Golden Bench by the library. Your child gets a special sticker stuck into their reading record so you can celebrate this with them at home.
- **Please, please, please do not** put children's water bottles in book bags as leaky bottles have led to so many of our reading books being damaged beyond repair – thank you for your support with this.
- Phonics sound cards: We begin learning the 4b phonemes next week so we will continue to send home the cards at the end of each week for the children to practise these at home. We assess their phonic recognition and blending during the 5th week of each term.
- Animal word cards: The children need to learn to read and spell the words on their word cards. We will assess these around week 4 each term. We have sent home a sheet of the Year 1 Common Exception Words. These are the words that the children are expected to be able to read and spell by the end of Year 1. Most of these words are featured on the animal cards. We have sent you the whole list so you have an overview, feel free to learn to read and spell them all at home.
- School Library: our class library day is **Tuesday** where we visit the library, browse the books, share our favourites with our friends, listen to a story before changing our library book. Please make sure you return your book the following book so you can swap it for a new one. The library is open on **Wednesdays from 8am -830am and from 305-335pm** for you to come and change your library book, read your school reading book to your parent/carer or just relax and read.
- Reading Shed: Please utilise our Reading Shed on the playground where you are invited to 'Borrow, Swap or Donate' books as often as often as you like!
- The Year 1 Curriculum: our whole school enquiry this term is 'What are buildings near us made of?' We will be focussing on being scientists, engineers and historians during this enquiry. If any families have any links to the building trade that they would like to come and share with us please get in touch with us. We will continue to document your child's learning using 'Tapestry' and would encourage you to log on and see this for yourself. It may help answer the daily question of 'what did you do at school today?' which we know doesn't always get much of an answer from the children! We also love to see what the children have been

learning about at home too so please upload this! If you need any help to access Tapestry please just ask! <https://tapestryjournal.com/>

- We will be going on a local area walk later in the term to look at buildings near us and find out what materials they are made of. We will let you know, via email, the date of the walk.
- Webpage: We update our class webpage weekly and so it is a really good place to keep up to date with all things Year 1! You will find an overview of our term's learning, what we have been learning each week, photos, Learners of the Week, Team Point certificates, Home Learning tasks, websites to support our learning etc. Please check them out regularly: <https://www.greentrees.wilts.sch.uk/classes/lemurs/>
<https://www.greentrees.wilts.sch.uk/classes/orangutans/>
- WOW moments: we have sent home new wow moments. The children love to share them with us and have them displayed in the class so send them in and always ask if you would like more!
- Snack: The children continue to be provided with a piece of fruit/veg to eat at snack time.
- Water: Please continue to send your child to school with their water bottles. Water is available in the classrooms at all times and they are encouraged to drink regularly during the day.
- PE kits: Our PE days are **Monday** and **Wednesday**. Your child needs to continue to keep their PE kit at school. If possible, the children will need a t-shirt, shorts, track suit bottoms (particularly in the colder weather this term) and trainers/plimsolls. A spare pair of socks is useful too for the children who wear tights.
Please, please, please name all clothes; including trainers/plimsolls.
This makes it so much easier to reunite lost items with their owner when 30 children are all getting changed at the same time!
- Outdoor Learning: We continue to enjoy learning outside during the week and during a Friday morning. It is so helpful that every child has a pair of wellies at school that we can use if/when the activity or the weather calls for it. Please continue to provide coats, hats, scarves, gloves, sun hats, raincoats as appropriate! **Please name your items.**
- 'Mathletics': Please continue to access 'Mathletics' and let us know when your child receives an award. We can add them to our class Mathletics Award Board and celebrate them in our weekly celebration assembly!

- Maths Passports: We will continue to work towards our maths passports and really appreciate your support with this at home. There are lots of ideas to help with this on our class web pages.

We look forward to continue working with you to support your child.

If you have any questions, queries, concerns or want to share any good news, achievements or those priceless moments concerning your child with us then please do. You can catch us after school, email us, call the office or make an appointment to speak to us. Our door is always open...

Yours sincerely,

Anna Glover Katy Bath Louise Dymond Hailey Edmonds

Ewa Johnston Deanne Rendall Gemma Cruttenden Michele Rebbeck &

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Year 1 Team

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