



May 2019 – YEAR 1

Dear Parent or Carer,

Well here we are at the beginning of the last term of this academic year and we want to begin by saying thank you for attending parent consultations last term. We hope you found these a useful opportunity to share your child's learning, to find out more about the curriculum and to understand more fully how we can work in partnership to support your child's progress. We think you will agree that your child's work books show just how hard they have been working and everybody should be very proud of all that has been achieved so far this year.

Your children have already shown that they are developing many of the characteristics of being a 'good learner' through the way they 'grapple' with their learning. As we continue to work together, we feel sure that their understanding of what learning 'looks like' will develop further as they meet new challenges this summer.

One of the challenges that Year 1 take up this term is the Phonic Screening Assessment, which will take place in June. Year 1 children continue to receive daily teaching to segment the sounds in words and to blend the sounds back together, when reading both real and nonsense words. These are the skills that will be tested and that ultimately ensure that your child becomes a successful reader. You can support your child by reading daily with them and by supporting them to say the sounds in unknown words and to blend them back together in order to read the word. If you are concerned that your child is struggling with this at home and would like to support them further, please come and see us and we can provide you with resources or can support you with this activity.

In addition to focusing on letters and the sounds they make, you can really make a difference to your child's progress by continuing to share stories and by talking about what is happening in them, so that the words have meaning and your child is able to understand, discuss and enjoy what they read. Take any opportunity to encourage your child to write for fun (stories) or for a purpose (shopping lists, cards, letters etc). Talk about what your child has written: note the effort they have made over spelling, presentation, grammar and punctuation and don't forget to let them 'show off' their learning because if they can 'explain

it' they are more likely to have 'mastered it'. Much of the maths curriculum is about really knowing and then applying maths skills. You can help by rehearsing maths facts, times tables and number bonds with your child so they memorise and can recall them at speed. This will enable your child to be fluent using what they know and will help them to build the vital stepping stones that they need as they make the transition into Year 2.

Please continue to help your child to make progress in all aspects of their learning; some of you will have discussed specific 'small steps' that will make a 'big difference' at the recent parent consultations. If you need a reminder as to what these were then do come in and speak to us. The essential skill for your child is to be a fluent reader, so if in doubt...read, read, read! Don't forget that praising the skills and effort you see is key in raising your child's feeling of achievement and enjoyment. Please sign their reading record to show they have read with you at home, so they can independently change their books when necessary.

Curriculum News

This term our topic is 'Land Ahoy!' where we will be comparing our locality to countries further afield by exploring similarities and differences in aspects such as: weather/climate, clothing, plants, food, animals, buildings, religion, culture etc. We will be identifying the countries that make up our island home and the oceans and continents that surround us through the eyes of pirates and explorers. This will naturally lead us to question how we can conserve and protect our environment and how we can enjoy it safely, ending the term by enjoying that sun, sea and sand as we become pirates and visit a local beach.

Please be aware of changes in weather during this term so that you are able to provide appropriately for your child. At times this may mean providing a rain coat, but may also mean ensuring your child has access to sun cream, sun hat and additional water on those hotter days!

We continue to have PE on Wednesday this term, but please ensure that your child always has PE kit in school (purple top, black shorts, black tracksuit bottoms and trainers or plimsolls). It would be really helpful if you could clearly name all kit, uniform and personal belongings as this saves us a lot of time and confusion! There is also a range of after school clubs on offer this year, so please

do think carefully about taking up these great opportunities for your child to learn skills beyond their school curriculum.

Please continue to ensure that ALL money is delivered into the school office in an envelope, clearly labelled with the child's name and stating the purpose of what the money is for.

Staff are available if you need to speak to us at school, but alternatively email: lwaldron@highweekprimary.co.uk , leden@highweekprimary.co.uk and mtaylor@highweekprimary.co.uk.

Thank you for your co-operation and support.

Year 1 team