



Year 1/2 2021 - 2022 AUTUMN TERM

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you are now back in the swing of things and enjoying the return to normal proceedings at school! The children have settled really well and we are getting to know them a little more each day. The adults in our class this year are Mrs Williamson, Miss Cranfield, Mrs Hammond, Mrs Markham-Woods and Mrs Tidball.

Our topic for this term is called 'From the Ant to the Elephant' and we will be focusing on learning as much as we can about British wildlife and their habitats- particularly hedgerows, trees and ponds around Great Easton. We hope to set up a night camera to see what visits the school field so if this is anyone's area of expertise then please let me know!

We have been trying to hear the children read three times a week in class and change their books when they can read them fluently, so please make sure they have their diaries and books in their bags as often as possible. If the wrong book ends up coming home please send me a Dojo message in case we don't check diaries the next day- we won't have done it on purpose!

I am hoping to start spellings for all children this week and re-start HFW reading, phonics and maths challenges for SMART work too. We are just re-vamping the system so it is the same in both KS1 classes. When it's ready to go, I'll make a little video so it's clear what to do at home and what we'll be doing in school.

The biggest thing you can be doing to help your child at the moment is reading to them / with them EVERY day. If they are reading to you, encourage them to use their phonics for any words they get stuck on, but if it's a word that doesn't sound out like 'the' then just read the whole word. Also, lots of the children seem to be sounding out individual letters in words even when there are more than one letter which make the same sound. For example in the word 'snow' sounding out the o and the w separately will not help to read the word. They should be able to recognise that the 'ow' is one

sound, so it should be sounded out as “s-n-ow” I will add this into the video so it makes more sense for you!

Please remember to make use of the SMART apps for which we pay the children’s subscriptions: Reading Eggs and DoodleLearning.

DoodleLearning now has four separate apps: DoodleMaths, DoodleEnglish, DoodleSpell and DoodleTables. The children’s DoodleLearning login is the same for all the apps, and they’re all great to help practise their learning from school and fill any gaps. The KS2 children who do these everyday are our highest attaining children so it’s definitely worth the effort if you would like your child to do as well as possible.

I’m sorry I don’t remember to do Dojo posts everyday, but I promise that I will try to get better at this!

If you ever have any concerns or worries, please contact me on Dojo or by email and we can arrange a meeting to sort things out, I would rather know sooner so we can find a solution to any problems.

Thanks for all your support so far and I am looking forward to an exciting and busy term.

Holly Miles

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