



Head Teacher: Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

*Aim High*

*Never Give Up*

*Follow Your Dream*

*Lead By Example*

February 2014

Dear Parents/Carers,

The children's independence has really developed over this past term, and their attitudes towards learning are fantastic. Our continued thanks for your support, in particular through the weekly completion of home learning with your child. Please ensure that your child continues to read as much as possible at home, and do work through the new sounds with your child. We will have a particular focus on phonics and sounds throughout next term.

### **MAIN LEARNING THEME** – *Alice in Wonderland*

Next term we will be focussing on the theme of *Alice in Wonderland*. Through this, the children will explore the book and the animated Disney film. The story and characters will lead us into learning that includes science experiments, learning to tell the time, working out the capacity of various containers and a focus on standard measurements for height. We will be preparing for our whole school performance, and learning new acting and role-play skills as well as music, dance and songs. The children will also be designing and building various games connected with the story, such as flamingo croquet!

### **LEARNING SKILLS**

Next term focuses on 'Developing Sense of Self Worth and Understanding of Self and Others'.

In Year 1, we will be working towards the following 'I can...' statements:

- *I can show interest in those around me and comment on the things I find interesting.*
- *I can express a range of emotions and identify a range of feelings.*
- *I can imagine familiar environments and describe what they look like.*
- *I can use simple coping strategies when I encounter a problem.*

### **NUMERACY**

Next term we will be continuing to develop the children's calculating skills, and knowledge of numbers. We will use Numicon to support the children, and we will use the National Numeracy Framework through block units to develop the children's numeracy knowledge. The first of these for next term will be Block C2: Handling Data and Measures. The second will be Block D2: Calculating, measuring and understanding shape.

### **LITERACY**

Next term the children will continue to access Read, Write Inc phonics or comprehension. This will develop their skills in blending sounds, and reading for meaning. Next term will see a particular focus on reading and recognising individual sounds such as 'ay', and we will be making strange nonsense words called 'monster words' for the children to practise this skill. This is a fun game to play at home too! Ask your child how many monster words they can create using their read, Write Inc sounds.

We are working hard at improving handwriting through the programme 'Write Dance'. This develops children's skills in letter and number formation, as well as improving their muscular control and body movements. Using our theme of *Alice in Wonderland*, we will explore character profiles and how events in a story create drama and tension. We will use our writing and reading skills to write creatively, using recounts of the story and role-play and drama to understand the characters further.



## **PE**

PE will be covered in two one hour sessions each week, **Monday** is outdoor PE and **Friday** is indoor PE. Please ensure your child has both indoor and outdoor kit in school with them all week. Children with long hair will need to have it tied back for safety reasons. Any earrings (studs only are allowed in school) will also have to be removed (by the child) or covered with a plaster (which must be supplied from home).

## **HOME LEARNING**

Your child will receive a weekly activity in their Learning Logs, this will be given out on a Wednesday and should be returned on a Tuesday. Every Tuesday, one Learning Log per class is chosen to be shared in the whole school assembly on Thursday. Your child will also be awarded House Points for the work produced in their Learning Logs. The way in which the work is presented is entirely up to the child. In addition, there will be key skills numeracy homework set, as well as the continuing phonics set in the red reading records.

Home learning is expected to be completed each week at home and handed in on time by Tuesday. If children do not meet this requirement then they will complete the home learning during break time. Can you please ensure that your child completes their home learning each week. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher.

In addition to this, your child can choose to undertake a half – term home learning project, which could be the focus of their homework for the beginning of the term. This project is not compulsory, but is a fantastic way to involve family and friends in their learning. This can involve the whole family and should be linked to our topic theme; the more creative the better!

## **READING**

Please continue to read with your child at home. Each week, they will be given 1 reading book which they can share with you at home and any comments recorded in the Reading Record. This will be changed weekly on a **Tuesday**. Year 1 have the opportunity to visit the library on a **Friday** and learn about all the different types of books and how to use a library. Each week, your child will also participate in Guided Reading where they will have the chance to join in with plenty of book talk.

Please ensure that your child brings in their reading log book every day. This enables us to stick in the reading objectives that we have covered during the week through class learning and Read, Write Inc, therefore sharing the children's learning and success with you. Thank you for continuing to record your own comments in the reading log books, as this helps us to move your child's reading forward.

## **SHOW AND TELL**

Show and tell will be on a Friday each week. If the children do bring an item in, it is preferable that this either be related to the topic, or an exciting event/achievement.

Mrs Burnham  
Class Teacher

Mrs Woods  
Teaching Assistant

Mrs Reynolds  
Head Teacher

