

NEWLYN SCHOOL

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Thursday, 25 April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Summer Term

Wow! Your child's year 1 is really speeding along, I can hardly believe that we are into this Summer term already. I hope you had an enjoyable break, I'd written this in the holiday, hoping Summer was just around the corner, with many long sunny days ahead of us - Let's now hope it has arrived!

I've have prepared an overview of our curriculum (separate document) for this term which I hope you find of use, it is also held in the Porthenys Class section on the school website.

Exciting days ahead - I have a school trip organised for later on this term. I'll give lots of notice, but I'm just waiting for a few finer details to be confirmed. It is a little further away, (about 30 miles), further than the trips we've been on so far - but knowing the class well now, they are more than ready for it!

Phonics

On Thursday 2nd April, at 3pm, I will be holding a short meeting in the hall about the Phonics Screening Check. Children will see the screening as 'another phonics lesson' and we like to keep it that way, so they don't have anything to worry about. If you can make the meeting, it will be helpful for you to know what support you can give your child over the next few weeks and the learning that has taken place to get to this positive point in their school year.

Parental Support

Please continue to read with your children and record it in their reading records/diary. It is beneficial if you can talk about the book and discuss with your child their thoughts about what they are reading. We have recently changed our reading system in school and children are now reading with an adult in a small group, for 20 minutes, first thing, three days a week. If you can bring your child into school for 8.40am each day, it will really help them settle into the school day, ready for their reading session at 9am. Please continue to help them remember their reading diaries should be in school every day to enable us to sign them and for us to log reading they have done at school too. This needs to be in addition to their reading at home.

We have a special Phonics parent session on Thursday 2nd May at 3pm, in the hall. It is a chance for me to go over what this term's Phonics includes and why it is important - linked to the Phonics Screening Check.

Spellings: Spellings will be sent home in the reading diaries on Mondays for children to practise over the course of the week. We will also practise their spellings during the week in class. If you would like to know more strategies around learning spellings please let me know. Each week children are also practising sentence dictations through their Little Wandle programme, these also include the spellings they are learning. It is really helpful if they have practised their spellings at home, as they can write their sentences more easily. I've attached a list of the common exception words that children are expected to know how to spell, we have learnt most of these now, so if your child is writing at home, this might be useful guide to help them know how to spell them or give them a little more practise.

Number bonds: Please keep up the practise with the number bonds. Bonds to 10 is a great game when you need to distract them or are waiting in a que somewhere.

If children know that $6 + 4 = 10$, they can apply this knowledge to answer the question. $16 + 4 = 20$.

Mental arithmetic is really important and we find the more children practise the more fluent children become. You can play games with children and they can perhaps ask you questions - you might get them wrong and then they can play teacher and explain what you needed to have done! They love that. Also, there are games online for quick recall, e.g. Topmarks is a really good site for Maths practise.

PE kit: Please ensure that your child has a full Newlyn School PE kit in school - it should be labelled with their name. PE will be on Tuesdays and Fridays. PE kit should be kept in school all week; if required, it can go home to be washed at the weekend, ready to come back to school for Monday.

Finally, I am always available to discuss your questions or queries; please feel free to write me a note on Seesaw, in your child's reading diary, email me: csquires@newlyn.tpacademytrust.org or catch me on the playground after school. If needed I can arrange to have a phone conversation to discuss queries further or we can organise a meeting face to face.

Many thanks,
Mrs Squires