

## SPRING TERM IN PINE CLASS



**'LEARN TOGETHER, WORK TOGETHER, GROW TOGETHER'**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, a huge welcome back to you all. We hope that you had a good Christmas break and that 2020 has got off to a good start for you.

It is hard to believe that we are already in the second term of the year. The Spring term is shorter, but with still lots to fit in, we are going to be very busy. Our learning for the term will focus around *Food and Farming*. Our first key text is **Handa's Surprise**. This will introduce the children to different fruits and animals from Africa which we will compare to those found in the United Kingdom. We will be tasting, describing and exploring different fruits and considering how they grow. Much of our creative work will look at African art, including animal patterns. The children will also be finding out about the famous Italian artist Giuseppe Arcimboldo.



Our second key text is **What the Ladybird heard**. We will use this text as a basis for further exploration of farming. We will be looking at how farming has changed, what animals might be found on a farm and the life cycle of a chicken. In the past we have incubated some eggs until they hatch but we are no longer able to hire the incubator. If anyone has any contacts who could help us with this then please do get in touch.

- **Reading** –We find that it helps to get into a routine with reading by doing it at the same time each day. Children enjoy routine, so this soon becomes part of a regular pattern. Please write in the yellow reading record books if you have listened to your child read or if you have shared a book together. We will continue to hear the children at every available opportunity in school, but this should not be their only source of reading. As the YR children move through the phonic phases, we will once again be putting the sounds learnt into their red phonics books. Please practise these daily, it will make all the difference to their reading and spelling! The some children have a pack of tricky words to learn too which are non-decodable words which cannot be sounded out in the usual way. It is important that the children learn to read these by sight.

- **PE –Children DO NOT need to bring PE kits to school.** Please ensure that they come to school in their kits on a Monday and a Wednesday. Children with earrings either need to remove them on these days or send in tape to cover them. Please remember this is for their own safety.
- **Outdoor Education-** This will be on a weekly basis. Please ensure that your child has a pair of wellies and waterproofs (we will keep them with us and send them home at half terms.) This term we will be identifying and naming birds and we will be taking part in the Big School Bird Watch 2022.
- **VALUE FOR LIFE** – As a Church of England school we follow the values for life, and this term it is Forgiveness. Please do take every opportunity to chat to your child about this as we will be reflecting on forgiveness as part of Collective Worship and as part of daily school life.
- **Morning Drop offs** – Please remember to leave your child at the black gate in the morning. At this stage in the year we need to foster as much independence as possible and of course, this is more COVID safe for all.
- **Library Books** – We change books on Wednesdays. There are a large number of outstanding books on loan. If these books are not returned, your child will not be able to borrow books from school which would be a real shame as they love to do this. Please also remember that you will be charged for any missing books.
- **Year 1 Spellings and Homework** – This is always due on Fridays. There has been a noticeable dip in the number of children learning their spellings and completing homework tasks. Completing homework is an expectation throughout the school so it is important to get into the habit now. We try our best to fit in opportunities to learn spellings in school but these need to be reinforced at home too.
- **Learning Café** – We shall be holding our first Learning Café for two years on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February. More details to follow.

Our priority is always the children and we know that those parents who become partners in learning truly improve the outcomes for their children. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

Laura Ketley and Kate Easter