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Dear Year R Parents,

We hope you had a wonderful half term break, although it seems a while ago now. We can't believe that we're in the final part of your child's first year at school. We hope your child has had an enjoyable year and enjoy the count down to the summer holidays.

However, there is still a half term to go and it is jam packed. Please see below, an outline of what we will be covering in this final half term.

Phonics

We will be continue to teach phase 4 of the Little Wandle programme. Much of this phase of the programme is about consolidating prior learning and linking this to sentence work. The focus of phase 4 is about learning to read and write words with double consonants. We will support children to read simple sentences as well as to write them. The weekly email will inform you of what we are teaching each week.

Reading

We will continue to share books with the children across the week, in whole class and small group reading sessions, consolidating children's reading skills and drawing on their prior knowledge.

We will be spending time on children's comprehension skills, ensuring children are competent at looking for evidence in stories to find the answers to questions.

Writing

We will continue to support children to develop their letter formation, again, consolidating what we have learnt before. We will also continue to support children to write 'tricky words' and use them in their writing.

As mentioned in the phonics section, we are placing much emphasis on consolidating what the children already know and can do and will be working on writing simple sentences. This will be linked to both the phonics sessions and the children's interests as well as other events that happen throughout this half term.

Mathematics

We will continue to have daily mental maths sessions which will support children to extend their number skills particularly counting on and counting back to support addition and subtraction. We will use number lines to support this. We will continue to work on our subitising skills in lots of different ways and we will introduce a resource called a rekenrek.

We will also teach children to compare quantities using the language of greater than, less than or the same as the other. We will practise ordering numbers, looking at missing numbers and will practise counting beyond 20. This half term is all about deepening the children's understanding of number and consolidating previously learnt skills.

Other things that are happening in Year R...

Dyslexia screening test (DEST)

The dyslexia screening test (which is fun games on a laptop) will take place over this half term and you will be informed of the results once they are complete. Your child will only take part in this if you received a letter.

Outside Learning Area

We will continue to look after the herbs we have planted and would like to send home some more things to grow at home. The children have loved all the planting we have done but after the half term, we found that many of the things that started to grow, were neglected over the half term holiday. Therefore, we would like to send some more thing home which we hope you can look after over the summer and then share photos with the Year 1 teachers when they start in Year 1.

Reminder

Don't forget, now that the weather is getting warmer and the sun is shining more (famous last words!) children will need to bring in sun hats and have sun cream applied before they come to school as we are not allowed to apply it for them. We will ensure that we keep children's water bottles topped up, encourage regular drinking and creating areas of shade to play in.

Transition Time

Was it really a year ago that we were meeting you all for the first time? And now it's time to be thinking about the children moving on, to Year 1. Some children take the idea of moving to Year 1 in their stride whereas others may feel a little anxious. Some have a mixture of excitement and anxiety. This is all normal and we will do everything we can to make the process as smooth as possible. To help with this, we will be doing lots of work this half term about 'change'. We will offer this through stories and discussions as well as make links to all the things that are currently growing.

Please be aware that the current Year R classes are often mixed into two new classes to go up to Year 1. Teachers will ensure that children's friendships groups are taken into consideration. You will receive information about your child's new teacher and when your child will meet them, later in the term.

Finally, this is going to be a busy half term and we know it will fly by, let us hope it is an enjoyable one and one where the children can enjoy playing outside in nice weather.

As always, we thank you for your continued support.

Early Years Team