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Dear Year R Parents/ Carers,

We hope you had a wonderful half term break and managed to get out and about, despite the weather. We cannot believe that we are in the final part of your child's first year at school. We hope your child has had an enjoyable year and that they 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 continuing 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. We will practise ordering numbers, looking at missing numbers and will practise counting beyond 20. We will also practise counting in twos as well as learn about the skills of doubling. This half term is all about deepening the children's understanding of number and consolidating previously learnt skills.

Our indoor and outdoor environment will also enable children to practise their shape, space, and measure skills.



Other things that are happening in Year R...

Dyslexia screening test (DEST)

We mentioned the Dyslexia Screening Test (which is fun games on a laptop) in our previous curriculum letter. The test will take place in Year 1, but we wanted to inform parents before then, if we felt that their child might be at risk. We must apologise as we forgot to send the letters home, so we will ensure that letters are sent out by the **Friday 14th June**.

Outside Learning Area

Due to the weather, we have been waiting a while to plant things with the children. However, we can now get planting and learn about how to look after the plants. If anyone has any seedlings they could donate for our garden patch, it would be greatly appreciated. We will be planting some seeds and, once they start growing, we would like to send them home so that your children can continue to watch them grow over the summer.

Reminder

Please do not 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 as well as create 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 is 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 we will be growing.

Please note that classes will stay as they are when they move up to Year 1 and will not be mixed. 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

