

please recycle me!



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2nd October 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been a great few weeks for us in Pippin. We have really enjoyed building relationships with the children and finding out their interests. For the last few weeks we have been ensuring children are settled and assessing your child. Now we have identified any areas for focus we feel we can reflect a more regular timetable. Our topic for this half term will be "The Local Area". Please see the attached curriculum map to see further details on our topic this term.

The rest of this letter shows what we want to do at home, to build upon what we are doing within school.

Reading

To help improve your child's development, your child will bring home reading books from school every week. These books have been matched to your child's reading ability. Reading is a wonderful activity that relates hugely to children's overall success in life. When in school, we want children to foster a love of reading and promote reading for pleasure. Please spend around **10 minutes a night** reading with your child, little and often is the best approach to reading, rather than for long periods at a time. We also encourage parents to read to their children and encourage reading of any other books that their children are interested in - this will help aid a love for reading! A great website to use is Oxford Owl - it's free for parents and has a range of great books available digitally.

Children should read the whole book 2-3 times over the week before swapping them on a Monday and Thursday. Swapping our books on these days allows us to quarantine them until the following week so they can be issued to another child.

You'll notice that your child has a Reading Record. Please record comments in your child's reading record book every time you read together. Positives and areas for development are welcomed. For example, if you notice they are frequently struggling to say a certain word, you may want to write this in the log so we can pick this up and work on this.

Alongside this, we have a "tricky word bookmark" that will come home with your child today. The words on these bookmarks are words that are unable to be sounded out in the usual way, and you may need to help your child with these words. If they are able to read these words without struggling, please tick them every time you hear them read the word fluently.

Some activities and ideas when reading the books with your child:

- Look at the front cover of a book and explore the illustrations. Ask your child to make predictions as to what they think the story will be about.
- Relate the title of the book back to your child e.g. "The lost coat" - have they ever lost anything?
- Ask family members to listen to your child read.



- Discuss the vocabulary within the book. If there is a new word within the book, what do they think that word means? How can they work that out from the illustrations within the book? This will allow your child to develop their comprehension skills.
- Once you have read the story, ask your child to recreate it! For example: if the story was about a missing coat, they could change the missing item to a shoe!
- If your child makes an error, wait to give your child a chance to work on it independently. If they do not realise their error, stop them by saying something like “try that one again”.
- Model expressive reading and ask your child to “echo read”. Encourage just-right pacing (not too fast, not too slow).
- Demonstrate how to attend to the punctuation (stopping at the end of sentences when there is a full stop, adding expression based on the punctuation marks).
- Compliment your child on their reading skills. “You sounded just like the character would sound!” “I could hear you take a break after the punctuation marks!”

Spellings

Alongside reading, the children will be assigned spellings for each week. These will be sent at the start of term. We have attached the next 3 weeks. Please can you make sure your child brings in their spelling book every **Thursday**, ready for a spelling test.

Please go through each spelling to your child by sounding it out, reading it and asking your child to have a go at writing it in their spellings books. At the top of the page, please can you/your child write the date. We encourage spellings to be creative, for example using colour and bubble writing. An example could be to create a rainbow in their spellings book using a different colour for each word. Alternatively, your child might prefer to look -> write -> cover -> check for each word.

Once you have done all of the words for that week, please mark them with your child (just using a tick or a cross) any incorrect spellings, please ask them to try again and help them if needed.

If your child is in Year 2 or you feel they are able, please ask them to choose one or two of their favourite words from the week and write a sentence using that word in their spellings books.

Homework

Homework will be given on a Friday and is expected to be back in school on Wednesday. We are giving children a homework file to store and transport all of their homework. For Pippin class, there will be one piece of homework to complete each week.

Reception

Thank you to Reception parents for engaging with Tapestry this term. We can see that lots have logged in and are viewing observations. If you are struggling to access Tapestry, please can you contact the office who will assist you further. Reception have started learning phonics this week, and their sounds for the week will be uploaded as a 'memo' on tapestry. Please practice these sounds with your children at home as often as possible. If you are uncertain on how to sound out a word, please ask us or there are videos online to support this. We would like to emphasise the importance of phonics being correctly taught. Some sounds such as 's' can be sounded out as 'suh' and I will do my best to support and direct you for help if needed. We also want to encourage parents to upload any 'wow' moments to tapestry too, it is lovely to see and hear what you have been getting up to outside of school, and this gives us an opportunity to talk about this with your child.

Thank you so much for being so friendly in the mornings and at pick up. With everything going on, I don't think this was how anyone expected to start a term but I feel I have started to develop some great relationships with parents. If you have any questions, please catch me at the end of the day, as the morning can be very busy! Alternatively, you can email me directly on pippinclassteacher@stmarysthorncombe.co.uk

Many thanks,
Miss Chestney

Miss Chestney

Pippin Class Teacher