



VN/LL 15/09/20

KS1 September Newsletter **Panthers, Giraffes and Zebras**

Dear Parents/Carers,

Well, the new school year has arrived and we are delighted that we have got all the children together again after such a long time. In Key Stage 1 we are enjoying getting to know all our new Year 1's as well as getting to work with different Year 2 children. We are spending the first couple of weeks re learning all the school routines, thinking about how school looks different and making sure everyone is happy and confident to restart our more formal learning.

Reading:

Within the next couple of weeks your child will be bringing home their reading records, home reading books plus their Read Write Inc books to practice. Remember that the Read Write Inc books will have already been shared in school and we just want them to reread as often as they can so they get more fluent in their reading. Please also remember to ask your child the comprehension questions at the back of the books.



Spellings:

All children in Year 1 will begin with two spellings to learn and Year 2 will be asked to learn four. You can help your child learn their spellings by making flash cards and sticking them around the house, playing spelling games or by rainbow writing - which means writing the words out in lots of different colours until they can spell them without thinking. We are only going to send high frequency words that generally can't be sounded out for spelling. If we can work hard at learning these, then Read Write Inc will help the children spell everything else they need. These will be sent home in a spelling book each Thursday and we would like their books to be back in class by the following Wednesday. Please let your child use these books to practice writing the words. We will also post all the spellings for the full half term in Google classroom, so if your child's book does not come home you can easily find the spellings for the specific week.

Google Classroom:

During lockdown our current Year 2's used Google Classroom to access their home learning. **If** there is a future closure due to Covid, Year 1 and 2 will go back to using Google Classroom to provide learning at home. As before, this will include links to reading, phonics lessons and the Maths activities and worksheets that your child would have been covering in school. All our children are currently on the Read Write programme and should always have a current reading book at home. In the **unlikely event** that there was a closure of more than two weeks we would then start scanning reading books for your child to access.

For the Year 1 children that have not had a Google account before, we have attached their email address and some help sheets to enable you to access the Google Classroom.





We are really hoping that we will not need to use this but feel we must be prepared for any possible interruption to learning. Please take some time familiarising yourself with this virtual classroom although for now you will only be able to see spellings for this half term.

Tapestry:

Year 1 parents will be used to communicating with class teachers through Tapestry when their children were in Foundation. This year Panthers will continue to use this system for capturing learning experiences in school as extra evidence towards the Year 1 learning objectives. However we will not communicate with parents through it as Key Stage 1 use Google Classroom for sending Home Learning. See above.

VIP:

Due the current situation, VIP will look slightly different this year. We will still have a VIP each week and they will still be able to wear the red jumper. However, we will not be able to invite parents to our special Friday VIP Worship. Instead the children will be having Worship in their classes' everyday but on Friday will meet with the other Key Stage 1 classes in the hall so we can share their VIP certificates. Unfortunately, we will not be able to allow the children to take the VIP box home and fill it as we are trying hard to limit the amount of items coming to and from school. However you can be assured that when your child is the VIP they will be well and truly looked after in class and given an opportunity to share some news at home.



Class Pet:

We will not be able to send a class pet home this term but will have an Amazing Me book for your child to fill in if they have been chosen by their classmates.

We have talked this all through with the children and they understand why things look a bit different at the moment. They are all excited about VIP and Amazing Me and can't wait to be chosen.

We hope all this is clear but if you do have any queries please don't hesitate to call the office and they can pass any queries on to the relevant class teacher.

Thank you for all your help with adapting to these changes.

Key Stage 1 Team

