



Dear Parents/Carers,

22nd April 2021

This half term we will start our new topic of 'Down at the bottom of the Garden.' You will find a copy of our planning on the school website - please be aware that our planning is flexible and will respond and change to meet the needs and interests of the children. We will introduce the children to books and stories, both fiction and non-fiction, to enrich their language and communication skills. Some of the stories they may already know, for example 'Jasper's Beanstalk' and 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' but some will be new to them. Our role play areas will enable them to act out roles and characters from stories. We will be planting seeds and observing their growth, finding out about what plants and seeds need to grow and we will also explore mini beasts living in our gardens. We will explore the life cycle of a butterfly and observe caterpillars hatching and their metamorphosis into butterflies. We will do our very best to bring the topic to life for the children and make it as exciting and real as we possibly can.

P.E. will continue to take place on Monday and Thursday - Carlisle United will continue to work with the children during their P.E. session on a Thursday. Please ensure that your child comes to school wearing their full P.E. kit. Trainers with velcro fastenings should be worn to avoid slips or trips outside. We still aim to work and play outside as much as possible so please ensure that your child comes to school wearing a waterproof coat as the weather is still very changeable at this time of year. As the weather becomes warmer (hopefully!) your child will need to wear a sun hat and sun cream to protect their skin. Please also ensure that your child brings a named water bottle to school every day. Please can you ensure that all items of clothing, especially jumpers and cardigans, are clearly labelled with your child's full name, as this can be quite stressful for your child when they are unable to find their own belongings.

Reading and Homework

Your child participates in a Phonics programme for 15-20 minutes every day and the reception children will continue to follow Phase 3. There will be more focus on blending and segmenting sounds together to read simple words, captions and sentences. Please continue to practise the letter sounds and other 'tricky' words we send home with your child's reading books. The reception children also continue to benefit from consistent reinforcement of Phase 2, and using these letter sounds to make simple CVC words. Please do continue to reinforce the **sounds and names** of the letters at home. You will find a detailed outline of each phonic phase on our school website in Class 1's resources. ('Phonics a guide for parents')

Your child will need to bring their reading books and folders into school on a **daily** basis. Re-reading of some books should be encouraged to help develop familiarity and confidence. Please feel free to comment on your child's progress and their interest in the books they have read in the blue reading record book. Reading books will continue to be changed twice a week.

The Nursery children will continue to choose their own library book once a week to share at home, and will take part in Phase 1 phonics activities each day. These activities develop their speaking and listening skills and an awareness of rhythm, rhyme and alliteration. They are also taught about environmental sounds, instrumental sounds, body percussion (e.g. clapping and stamping) and oral blending and segmenting (e.g. hearing that d-o-g makes 'dog')

Please continue to contribute to your child's Tapestry profile. We value this information and love to find out about the different things your child has been doing out of school. We will continue to add photographs with ongoing observations of your child's learning and development. Also, please feel free to add any comments to your child's achievements on Tapestry.

As always we will continue to do our very best to provide a high quality, safe education for your child throughout this pandemic. As restrictions ease please continue to adhere to the rules to ensure that all our families, staff, and community are able to stay as safe as we possibly can.

I hope that you find this information useful. If you have any questions or concerns, then do please come and speak to me directly or send me an email. kathryn.grayson@castlecarrock.cumbria.sch.uk

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Grayson