



# Puddletown Church of England First School

We care enough to try our best in all we do because we are wonderfully made: made to love, made to flourish, made to be unique

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10th January, 2025

Dear Parents/ Carers

Happy new year to you all! I hope you had a lovely Christmas and thank you so much for all the lovely gifts. The children have settled really well since returning from the holidays and we look forward to the term ahead. We are pleased to inform you that Mrs Barkle will be joining Mrs Newton and I every morning this term. We will be working as a team to help support and develop your children's learning.

## TOPIC

Our project this term is called 'Dangerous Dinosaurs'. This exciting project teaches children about the different animals that roamed Earth millions of years ago and how they are related to animals that live on Earth today.

## LITERACY

Our Literacy will be based on the book 'The Girl and the Dinosaur' by Hollie Hughes. This is the story of a little girl called Marianne who digs for dinosaur bones on a golden, sandy beach. That night, she makes a wish on the wishing star for the bones to come to life. Her dream comes true, and Marianne and the dinosaur go off to a magical, moonlit island. There, they meet other children and creatures from their dreams. It is a land 'where anything is possible, and nothing's as it seems'. We will be exploring the story, learning new vocabulary, answering questions and using the text to give the children writing opportunities.

We are focusing more on our **letter formation** this term and going over the Little Wandle Rhymes that fit with each letter. We will also be learning about capital letters.

We practise the formation in lots of different ways, using chalk, water and brushes, wipe boards and pens, sand, paint, sky writing, large and small scale, so please feel free to do the same at home.

## Phonics

We are beginning to learn digraphs (2 graphemes (individual sounds) that together make one sound) and trigraphs (3 graphemes that together make one sound e.g. igh) in our phonics this term. Please carry on revising each grapheme in the phonic scrapbooks as this groundwork will aid your child's reading and writing. These phonemes/graphemes are much harder to learn and need lots of practice at home and school.



**Wk beg 7.1.25.**      Revision of sh, th, ch, ng, nk, u, x  
**Wk beg 13.1.25.**      ai, ee, igh, oa  
**Wk beg 20.1.25.**      oo, oo, ar, or      **New Tricky words: was, you, they**  
**Wk beg 27.1.25.**      ur, ow, oi, ear      **New Tricky words: my, by, all**  
**Wk beg 3.2.25.**      air, er, words with double letters: dd mm tt bb rr gg pp ff  
**New Tricky words: are, sure, pure**  
**Wk beg 10.2.25.**      longer words and assessment

### **Reading**

The children are continuing to have three guided reading sessions during the week. We keep detailed notes of your child's progress in these sessions in school. They will then bring their book home to read with you over the weekend. This is their opportunity to practise their learning from the week. For some children this will be the first time that they have had books with words. Please remember to return the book on a Tuesday. Please continue to use the pink reading diaries to record your child's reading at home as this is very helpful for me to read. Regular reading at home will make a huge difference to their progress in reading. At the end of each half term the children are assessed on their phonics and tricky words and reading books are matched accordingly.

The children will continue to bring home a book for you to share with them on a Friday and this will be changed the following Friday.

### **Tricky words**

Please continue to practise the tricky words in the pink diary. I am checking the children's progress weekly. Next week we will start learning new tricky words ( the blue words at the back of the pink diary).

### **MATHS**

We follow White Rose Maths and NCETM. There is lots of information on their websites for parents. Each week we will be focusing on different number concepts/ topics.

**Wk beg 7.1.25.**      One less  
 How many? Representing Zero  
 Composition of numbers to 5  
 Comparing numbers to 5  
 Equal/unequal groups

**Wk beg 13.1.25.**      Composition of numbers to 5 (2 groups)  
 How many altogether?  
 Composition of numbers to 5 (3 groups)

**Wk beg 20.1.25.**      Comparing mass - heavier and lighter than  
 Full and empty  
 Measuring capacity - how many fit inside?

## Measuring ingredients

**Wk beg 27.1.25.** Composition of 6, 7 & 8  
Matching 6, 7 and 8  
1 more and less

**Wk beg 3.2.25.** Matching 6,7,8  
Making pairs  
Combining 2 groups  
Adding more

**Wk beg 10.2.25.** Comparing height  
Comparing length  
Days of the week  
Measuring height  
Measuring time

## REMINDERS

- Please could you check **name labels** in your child's clothes as they tend to start disappearing at this time of year.
- Please can you make sure water bottles are named as well - thank you.
- I know for some children it is a comfort to have a soft toy but we are now having a lot bought in each day. If possible, can you discourage your child from bringing them in or make sure they are small enough to stay in their book bag.
- Please can you take the time to discuss meal options with your children. Hopefully they will have tried most things now so will be able to tell you which meals they enjoy.
- Each child in the class has a year 4 buddy and they have buddy time every Thursday afternoon.
- Please can I remind you that any snacks that are sent in must be a healthy fruit snack. Also, please do not send any items into school that contain nuts.
- This term the children will be having dance every Tuesday afternoon. They will continue to have PE on a Friday afternoon with Mr Treble.

Please do not hesitate to speak to me if you have any questions on any of the above or anything else. My direct email is [nflux@puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:nflux@puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk)

Yours sincerely  
Mrs Flux, Mrs Newton and Mrs Barkle