

# Puddletown Church of England First School

'Inspiring learners to be the best they can be'

Dorchester Road, Puddletown, Dorchester, DT2 8FZ Tel: (01305) 848206 Fax: (01305) 848094

Head of School: Mrs A Seal

E-mail: office@puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk

www.puddletownfirst.dorset.sch.uk

8th January, 2024

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 you gave to Mrs Newton and I. The children have settled really well since returning from the holidays and we look forward to the term ahead.

## TOPIC

This term our topic is 'Bears'. We will be finding out about real bears including polar bears, panda bears, brown bears and sun bears. The children will be learning facts about their habitats, what they eat, where they live etc. We will also be learning about teddy bears and comparing new and old bears. The children will look at famous bears such as 'Paddington Bear' and 'Rupert Bear'. As part of our topic we will be using story books with bears in for our Literacy. Our role play area will be set up as the three bears cottage and the children will be given props to act out the story of 'Goldilocks'. Our PE will be linked to the story 'We are going on a bear hunt'. The children will be moving to music and acting out the story.

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.

The children are being encouraged to write independently and in simple sentences. They will be writing facts about bears. The children will also be encouraged to take part in drama and act out some of the stories.

## 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 2.1.24. ai, ee, igh, oa

Wk beg 8.1.24. oo, oo, ar, or

Wk beg 15.1.24. ur, ow, oi, ear

New Tricky words: was, you, they

New Tricky words: my, by, all



INVESTORS IN PEOPLE



CHARTER  
STANDARD  
SCHOOLS



**Wk beg 22.1.24.** air, er, words with double letters: dd mm tt bb rr gg pp ff

**New Tricky words: are, sure, pure**

**Wk beg 29.1.24.** Longer words

**Wk beg 5.1.24.** 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 on a **Wednesday now so you will have longer to practise**. For some children this will be the first time that they have had books with words. **Please remember to return the book on a Monday**. 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. This week we will start learning new tricky words ( the blue words at the back of the pink diary).

### MATHS

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

**Wk beg 2.1.24.** One less  
How many? Representing Zero  
Composition of numbers to 5  
Comparing numbers to 5  
Equal/unequal groups

**Wk beg 8.1.24.** Composition of numbers to 5 (2 groups)  
How many altogether?  
Composition of numbers to 5 (3 groups)

**Wk beg 15.1.24.** Comparing mass - heavier and lighter than  
Full and empty  
Measuring capacity - how many fit inside?  
Measuring ingredients

**Wk beg 22.1.24.** Find 6,7,8  
Represent 6,7 and 8  
1 more  
1 less  
Composition of 6,7,8

**Wk beg 29.1.24.** Making pairs odd and even  
Double to 8 (find a double)  
Double to 8 (make a double)  
Combining 2 groups  
Conceptual subitising

**Wk beg 5.2.24.** Length, Height and Time  
Explore Length  
Compare Length  
Explore Height  
Compare height

### **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.
- Our class Open afternoon this term will be on **Thursday 8th February at 1.45pm.**
- This term the children will be having dance every Thursday afternoon with a lady called Holly. They will continue to have PE on a Friday afternoon with Mr Treble. Please could they have some leggings or jogging bottoms in their PE bag for when they start to go outside.
- **OLD TEDDY BEARS** If anybody has an old teddy bear that we could look at we would very much appreciate them being brought in. We promise we will take great care of them.

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 and Mrs Newton