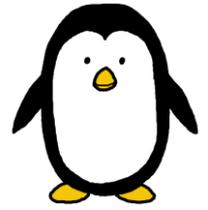


Welcome to Attenborough Class



Year 1 Information 2016-2017

Term 1 & 2

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope you find the following information useful as we begin our journey through Year 1 together! Please do not hesitate to ask if you need anything clarifying further.

Morning Routine

Children should keep their items with them on the playground and bring them into the classroom independently once the whistle goes at 9.00. Parents are asked to leave the playground on the first whistle (at 8.50am). This allows for any sad faces/tears to be turned into smiles before we enter the classroom, ready for learning! I will be on the playground whilst the children are settling into their new routine.

Upon entering the classroom, all children will put their reading books and records in the reading box, so we ask that you make it very clear in their reading records (by writing **PLEASE CHANGE**) if their book has been read, understood and they are ready for a new one. Your child may have only read a few pages, which is absolutely fine. Please still write a date or comment about the pages they read to you, so they can move their bookworm along the bookshelf! (All will become clear!☺)

Home Reading

Your child will bring home coloured book bands in Year 1. They will receive their first reading book during the first week, once we have assessed their current reading level. We try to ensure that they do not take home books that they have already read in Class R. However, if this does happen, I apologise in advance as the children are encouraged to select their own reading books. The book bands are organised so there is some overlap in difficulty. Therefore, children will find some books in a coloured band easier than others. The theory is that children can be challenged one night and have their confidence boosted by an easier book another night. The easier books also have other benefits, for example, a child is more likely to want to attempt expression and discuss events in the text if they find it easier to decode the words.

In school, we teach the children the skills of reading, but confidence, fluency, expression and comprehension only develop through repetition and practise. It is vitally important that you read with your child at home. There is a weekly reading cup awarded to the class that has the highest percentage of readers reading more than 3 times per week...and we'd love to win it! There are also prizes and awards for those children who read every night! As mentioned in the 'Morning Routine', if your child has read their book to you at home, children have the following options.

1. Write PLEASE CHANGE along with your comment in the reading record, IF..... Your child read this book well, with little support or intervention. You have asked them questions about the book and they showed a good level of understanding about the text. You have recapped any words that they struggled with.
Or...
2. Write a date/comment only to show you want to keep the book for another night/read IF....
You read the book together, but regular support was needed, or if the book was read well, but your child showed little understanding of what they had read when you asked them questions about the text.

Book bags

In Year 1 we advise children to simply bring a green Mersham book bag with them, as opposed to a large rucksack or satchel. This allows all of the book bags to be stored in the same place and makes book changing, guided reading and locating children's items much easier and avoids wasting time. Our lockers are also en route to our main fire exit

and when large bags are stored, it can cause trip hazards and reduces the room to move in this area. Many thanks in advance for your support with this.

Library

Library books will be changed by Year 6 during lunch times. Further details of this will follow. Children will only get a new library book if they have returned their previous book to Year 6. Please do not return your child's book directly to the library yourself.

P.E .Kits

P.E. kits are needed on **Mondays** and **Wednesdays**. This should include shorts, t-shirt and trainers or plimsolls. Throughout the winter months, it is strongly advisable for children to have tracksuit trousers/jogging bottoms in their P.E. kit as outdoor P.E continues throughout the year. P.E. shoes are needed in school every day if your child wishes to play with the football or play equipment (Trim Trail) during their playtimes. It is ideal to have a PE kit in school every day as timetables can change.

Please make sure that all of your child's P.E kit is clearly named, including plimsolls/footwear.

Groups

Your child will be given a place in a table group, however, they will get a chance to work with other children in the class and will only be sat in these groups for certain lessons. These groups are fluid and children will change according to group dynamics, learning objectives and group targets. It is very important that children learn to work with others and are surrounded by children that will help them focus on their learning.

Planning Preparation and Assessment Time

I will be out of class for PPA time on a Tuesday afternoon throughout Term 1 and 2. During this time the class will be taught by Mrs. Mulligan.

Homework and Spellings

Spellings: Your child will receive weekly spellings. Spellings should be explored/practised throughout the week and then returned to the spelling tray, ready for testing on the following Monday. First spellings will be in bookbags on Monday 11th September. All children will have a high frequency word and a tricky word to learn each week. They will then have words that contain the phoneme/s that we have been learning in class that week. The children will have a list of words, but will not be tested on all of them. The test each Monday will consist of the high frequency word and tricky word, plus 5-10 of the other words that they have learnt. This way, we are encouraging children to use and apply spelling patterns and rules, rather than simply remembering a list of words, and this will lead to them becoming more confident when spelling unfamiliar words in the future. You will receive their score in their green spelling books.

Homework: Homework will be set on a Friday and should be placed in the homework tray before the following Thursday. We will remind the children to take completed homework from their book bags. The format and expectations for homework are all explained in their homework books, which will be coming home in book bags on Thursday. In addition to the first week's task, please cover your child's homework book to help to protect in throughout the year (wrapping paper, sticky-backed plastic etc.) We will add a name label once the book is covered.

Hand-In Days

Every day: Reading books and reading records.

Monday: Green Spelling books should be returned in book bags for new spellings to be entered.

Thursday: Homework hand-in day (although it can be handed in earlier. Homework is marked and returned on Friday)

Bengie and Gloria!

Bengie and Gloria are our Attenborough Class Penguin Pen Pals. They may decide to spend the weekend with you some time during the year. There will be time during the week to share what Bengie and Gloria have been up to over the weekend, so please ensure they are returned safely after their adventures! Each penguin will come with a diary. Please encourage your child to write, draw pictures, stick photographs etc. as a reminder of the fun times they have had together!

Attenborough News:

I will ParentMail 'Attenborough News' regularly to keep you up-to-date on our learning from the week and any looming dates that are important. These will also be uploaded to the website.

Show and Tell

Show and Tell is a great opportunity for children to develop their speaking and listening skills. This will take place on a Friday. As time is limited, please see below a list of the topics for Show and Tell this Term. Children place any items for show and tell in the basket (purple sparkly box next to my desk) on a Friday. Please make sure all belongings are clearly named.

Week 1: Summer Holidays

Week 2: Summer Holidays

Week 3: My Family

Week 4: My Family

Week 5: Me as a baby

Week 6: Me as a baby

Week 7: Me as a baby

Curriculum:

In Year 1, we have a different topic each term and try to link all of our learning to this topic.

Term 1: All About Me

Term 2: The XFactor

Please keep an eye on the website for a peek at what we've been up to in class!

Thank you for taking time to read this information.

Kind regards,

Miss Sexton and Mrs Herdson