



Welcome to Attenborough Class



Year 1 Information 2018-2019

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. All will become clear (I promise!)

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 into the reading box, so we can see who has read at home and who needs their book changed...and so they can move their bookworm along the bookshelf! (All will become clear on your first Walk in Wednesday☺)

Home Reading

Children will receive their first reading book during the first week, once we have assessed their current reading level. Children are encouraged to select their own reading books. 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 the 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

Our P.E. days are currently Mondays and Thursdays, but it is advisable to keep kits in school at all times as these can change. Kits should include shorts, t-shirt and trainers and/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.

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 one afternoon each week, so the children will be taught by Mrs Mulligan on a Tuesday afternoon.

Homework and Spellings

Spellings: Your child will receive weekly spellings on a Monday. Spellings are shared in two different ways and it is advised that a combination of both methods are used- for the best results!

1. Spelling list/s will be stuck into a small exercise book and sent home in book bags. Please encourage children to have a go at writing the words as they spell them. This is to be completed on spare paper and not in these books.

We do not require to see spelling practise.

2. Spellings are set via Spelling Shed. This is an online practise tool and allows children to play games using the words they have been set.

A variety of practise methods ensures that the children are learning the phonemes and the rules, rather than simply the list of words for the purpose of the test. It promotes the children being able to apply it in their future writing. Spellings will be tested each Monday morning, so please ensure the spelling books are returned on this day to allow new spellings to be stuck in.

First spellings will be in bookbags on Monday 10th September. They will be words that contain the phoneme/s that we have been learning in our class phonics sessions that week.

If you'd like to begin exploring Spelling Shed before the 10th September, your child's log-in details will be stuck inside their reading record at some point during the first week. I have set some Phase 2 spelling lists for them to have a play with.

Also inside their reading records will be log-in details for 'Purple Mash' and 'Times Table Rockstars' (for ease your child will have the same username and password for all!). Ignore Purple Mash and TT Rockstars for the moment...one thing at a time...I'll send out more details about these and their uses once the children have started to use them in class.

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 Friday 7th September. In addition to the first week's task, please cover your child's homework book to help to protect it throughout the year (wrapping paper, sticky-backed plastic etc.) We will add a name label once the book has been covered.

Reminder 'Hand-In' Days:

Every day: Reading books and reading records.

Monday: Spelling books for testing and new spellings to be entered.

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

Attenborough Pen Pals

We have a Attenborough Class Pen Pal. They may decide to spend the weekend with you some time during the year. There will be time during the week to share what they have been up to over the weekend, so please ensure they are returned safely after their adventures! They 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 Parent Mail 'Attenborough News' regularly to keep you up-to-date on our learning from the week and any looming dates that are important.

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 for Term 1 & 2. Children should place any items for show and tell in the basket on a Friday. Please make sure all belongings are clearly named. Children with surnames A-J are in Group 1, K-Z are in Group 2

Term 1: All About Me- All About My Body	Term 2: The XFactor
Week 1: Summer Holidays (Group 1)	Week 1: Half Term Reflection (Group 1)
Week 2: Summer Holidays (Group 2)	Week 2: Half Term Reflection (Group 2)
Week 3: My Family (Group 1)	Week 3: My Special Talent (Group 1)
Week 4: My Family (Group 2)	Week 4: My Special Talent (Group 2)
Week 5: Me as a baby (Group 1)	Week 5: A Special Gift (Group 1)
Week 6: Me as a baby (Group 2)	Week 6: A Special Gift (Group 2)
Week 7: All- Half Term Plans	Week 7: All- Father Christmas Please Bring Me...

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, All About My Body

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. I completely understand that this is a lot of information to take in all at once, but hopefully will provide a point of reference whilst you get familiar with new routines etc. Please come and find me if you have any questions, but rest assured that any little problems will be ironed out over the first few weeks back!

Kind regards,

Miss Sexton, Mrs Herdson and Miss Napolitano