

Fen Ditton C. P. School

Spring 1 2017 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to our Spring Term! It's very exciting to see our children beginning to show independently the learning they have so far acquired. It is also good to see the effects of home and school working together to enable our children to reach their summer targets. Reading and writing for themselves, solving mathematical problems, as well as friendship and clothing problems, is enabling them to develop skills that will give them a very good start in life!

Please see our Half-termly Planner to let you know what our themes/topics are for Spring 1. There are plenty of opportunities for parents to be involved and we would warmly welcome your ideas for joining in. If you would like to share your heritage with Penguins, (and adults are very interested too!), please talk to Mrs Rogan or Mrs Hackett so that we can timetable you in. Any clothes, food, language, stories, games, objects from your culture, and powerpoint presentations too, would be wonderful to bring the learning alive for the children!



Winter Walk around Fen Ditton:

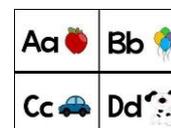
During our M is for Map week we will be taking a walk around Fen Ditton to look at places in the village that might be on the map in the form a 'key', such as the school and the church. It will also be an opportunity to look at changes in the weather during our winter season and the effects on ourselves and nature.



Class Assembly:

Our class assembly will take place on Friday 3rd February. The children will be taking the lead in showing the school and parents some aspects of their learning. It will last approximately 20 minutes after which there will be refreshments and a chance to chat with your child/ren and staff. When you have dropped off your child/ren, please go around to the reception area at the front of the school. You will then be let into the hall and the assembly will start shortly after.

Following this will be a short workshop during which you will have the opportunity to work with your child/ren in the same way that we teach 'guided reading' in school. We anticipate the event will finish at approximately 10:15 am. We have found that when parents interact with their children at home to enhance their learning, great results follow!



Change of clothes:

Thank you to those parents who have remembered to send in a named change of clothes for their child/ren; these are invaluable for the occasional 'accident' and because the children will continue to go out whatever the weather. Coats and wellies are also crucial for the rainy spring and summer months as in our climate there will always be cold and wet days!

Also, we have just had delivered a very lovely carpet for the children to sit on! They each have their own mini-beast - please ask them what it is.

With this in mind, and the very soggy weather that we have in the spring term, Penguin's are going to be piloting a new school scheme of the children wearing indoor shoes. We are asking that all Penguin children bring in a change of indoor shoes, named, such as plimsolls or trainers, as long as they are clean and easy to put on and off - Velcro is perfect!



PE:

PE will be on Tuesdays. It is vital that all items of clothing, including shoes, are named so that the children can tell which clothes are theirs. Even with names in it can be quite tricky reuniting children and items of clothing!

Reading:

Reading groups are now well established and most children are using their knowledge of phonics to begin to read independently. Please look at the communication in the Reading Record which will inform you of what your child needs to do that week for their next session. We are very impressed with the progress the children are making, particularly those who have been practising their reading at home. It is expected that the children will spend approximately 20 minutes a day going over grapheme/phonemes, new words and their new books, as per information already handed out. We have further copies of this if you require one, please just ask!

To keep the communication flowing and the reading resources handy, please keep them altogether together in the book bags and bring them in every day. Thank you! 😊



Maths:

Children in Reception need to know all their numbers to 20, both the numeral and quantity. If your child would like further help/practice to make sure that this is achieved, please ask either Mrs Rogan or Mrs Hackett for their support. Also money is part of our learning this half-term. If you go shopping with your child/ren, maybe you'd like to give them a little money to buy something with and talk about the coins, how much their item costs, what change will they get, or maybe they would like to save their pocket money and 'make more'!



Parent Volunteers:

We are always happy for help/support in Penguins, so if you would like to share a skill, or have a little time for jobs, etc. please let us know because you would be very valued! Please speak to Mrs Rogan or Mrs Hackett who will be happy to arrange times for you to join us. 😊

Any other Business!

If there is anything you feel you would like to talk about regarding your chil/ren, please do not hesitate to arrange a chat. We are here to help if we can!

Kind regards,



Mrs Hackett (Area Leader) and Mrs Rogan