



# Newsletter

January 2018



A very Happy New Year to all of you.

I really hope your festive season was just as you wished!

It is great to be back at the beginning of a very busy term and to see the children coming into school with such big smiles on their faces.

We're going to have a big focus this term on how you can help the children with their learning at home. Whilst we can do a lot, your help with their learning is invaluable and you really do make a difference! We have invested in some great educational subscriptions to make this easier for you and we have also purchased a whole set of Read, Write, Inc books which will give your child confidence in their reading skills and will make them want to show you at home how well they can read (see below)!

## Read, Write, Inc (RWI)

We have been using this great reading programme over the last year and a bit but in conjunction with other phonics schemes but we have decided to rely more heavily on the RWI as it is proven to have such a great effect on children's reading. Therefore we have invested in the Read, Write, Inc books. The children learn sounds in their phonics lessons and then read books which contain words which they can read based on previous phonics lessons. This means that the children don't find the books too challenging and so gain huge confidence in

their reading skills. Whilst they are reading this set of books, they are learning a new set of sounds which will be practised in class but which will be contained in the next level of RWI books which will be sent out for home reading once the children are confident with the sounds. This makes for **HAPPY reading as the children are SUCCESSFUL** which builds their **self-esteem and confidence**. We will monitor the impact of this and hope you will find using these books and reading with your child, easy and less stressful!

## Bug Club

At the end of last term you should have received an individual home log in for Bug Club. This is a great reading resource which the children can access independently, both in school and at home, as there is a facility on the site which reads out aloud unfamiliar words or tricky sentences. The children are rewarded for reading the Bug Club e-books (which the teacher sets at the right level for your child) by collecting points to build avatars. They practise their decoding skills but are also challenged in their understanding of the text and have to answer questions to explore their comprehension skills.

If you do nothing else, perhaps you could set aside some time each night for your child to access Bug Club and practise their reading independently.

## Year 1 Phonics workshop

Mrs Peters will be running a Phonics workshop for parents on Tuesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of January particularly for Year 1 parents. Year 1 children have to take a statutory phonics screening test in June and we want to be able to explain to you the expectations of that and how you can help. Please try to come along straight after school next Tuesday (3.20pm) for a short presentation and a chance to ask any questions you may have.

## Year 2 KS1 SATS workshop

Mrs Peters will also be holding a workshop on Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> of January at 3.20pm for Year 2 parents to outline the expectations for Year 2 children at the end of year statutory Key Stage 1 tests which the children will do in May. Again, it is your chance to find out more and ask any questions that you may have.

Both the above workshops will be held in Aspen Class.

## New build at Newcross



I am sure you will be delighted to know that our builders, Galliford Try, are in no way connected with Corillion which has been much in the news in recent days regarding their insolvency.

**Picking up children**

Please ensure you let us know via a phone call to admin or a written note handed to the teacher if your child is being picked up by someone different to yourselves as parents. This is very important to ensure your child's safety at the end of the day.

**Reporting Absence**

Please ensure you ring **every day** to report your child's sickness for as long as your child is off school. Many thanks.

**Labelling**

Please, please, please ensure that all your child's clothing and belongings are clearly labelled to help us in our quest to make sure belongings are not lost or taken home by another child by mistake.

**Water Bottles**

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our children healthy and their teeth, in particular, healthy by only bringing water into school in water bottles.

**Absence Levels**

Whilst we are aware that there has been quite a few tummy bugs etc going around, our absence levels have risen, please try to get your child into school as much as possible. If you are undecided as to whether your child is ill enough to be off school, bring them in and we will always let you know if they need to go home - they often perk up to a huge extent once they get into school, and it's good to give them the chance to do this.

**Parent Pay**

Just a quick reminder to register your ParentPay account. We are now using ParentPay to collect money for uniform and toast as well as in the future for school dinners. Please ensure you have also registered your mobile phone so we can contact you in emergencies, this is also helpful as we can send a text letting you know your child has bumped their head.

Your help with making the school office run more smoothly is very much appreciated.

**Free School Meals**

Last week we completed the school census which included gathering information about **free school**

**meal** eligibility, this is different to the **Universal Infant Free School Meals** which is for children in Reception to Year 2. Please see the information below if you are in receipt of the following support payments will be entitled to receive free school meals:

- Income-based and contribution-based JSA or ESA on an equal basis
- Income Support (IS)
- Income based jobseekers allowance (IBJSA)
- Income-related employment and support allowance (IRESA)
- Child Tax Credit, provided they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual income as assessed by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, that does not exceed £16,190
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit
- Where a parent is entitled to Working Tax Credit run-on (the payment someone receives for a further four weeks after they stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Support under part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit

Children who receive a qualifying benefit in their own right are also allowed to receive free school meals.

Please log in to the portal link [Citizen Portal](#) this will give you an instant answer should you be eligible. The additional funding the school receives is to support your child whilst they are with us.

**DATES for your Diary**

January	
23 <sup>rd</sup> January	Year 1 Parent's phonics workshop 3.20 Aspen class
29 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 2 Parent's KS1 SATS workshop 3.20 Aspen class
February	
HALF TERM 10 <sup>th</sup> Feb to 19 <sup>th</sup> Feb	
19 <sup>th</sup> February	Children back in school
March	
29 <sup>th</sup> March	Last day of term

**Dr Penny Fitch,  
Principal**

