



Year R Newsletter Term 4

February 2018

Dear Parents/Carers, Kung Hei Fat Choi and welcome back! I hope you all had a relaxing break and are refreshed and eager to return to school! We are really looking forward to a short but very busy term ahead of us.

Our term four topic 'Knights, Castles, Princesses and Easter' has generated great excitement and we are really keen to learn lots of new things related to this. We have linked our theme with the traditional tales 'The Princess and the Pea and Cinderella' and the fabulous picture books Sir Scallywag and the Golden Underpants by Giles Andrea and Princess Mirror Belle by Julia Donaldson. We shall be learning about Knights and Armour as well as exploring 'Castles' and why they were built. We hope to visit Walmer Castle during this term - I will send out a separate letter with relevant details, once confirmed.

I would like the children to design and create their own cardboard castles and shields so please send in a cardboard box suitable for your child to transform into a castle and also send in clean junk modelling for making shields, towers, turrets, armour etc. Additionally, If you have anything you would like to send in linked to this theme, it would be greatly appreciated.

Our R.E focus for Term 4 is Easter. We shall be exploring 'Why do Christians put a cross in an Easter Garden?' With this in mind, please feel free to send in items suitable for creating an Easter Garden tuff tray. We would love some daffodils; clay pots; soil; rocks; Palm Crosses; moss; twigs etc. I will use these to create an interactive Easter Garden for the children to explore their thoughts and feelings about Jesus. I would also like all children to send in a blown egg ready for decorating later in the term.

Our curriculum focus this term in phonics will be continuing Phase 3 Letters and Sounds concentrating on blending sounds for reading and segmenting sounds for spelling. Please encourage your child to read and write daily to practise blending and segmenting as little and often truly is the key. I would also recommend highlighting and playing digraph spotting in the text to help them make real links between phonics and reading in books. Our Little Big Maths Learn Its are: My halving to 10 (my first number sentences)  $10-5=5$ ;  $8-4=4$  and my doubling number sentences  $5+5=10$ ;  $2+2=4$  etc. Please encourage your child to learn these so that they can use instant recall. For those who would like more challenge then learn doubles and halves to 20 or beyond using number sentences.

I would like to try to get the garden area looking lovely again with the children's help so please send in any plants, vegetables, ornaments or gardening tools or gloves that you may have discarded at home. Also, if you have time to come in and help pull up weeds and help with planting then please let one of us know.

Just a few reminders: All children **must** have a **P.E** kit in school as it is part of our curriculum. We do try to find spares so that all children can take part, but this is not always possible. Also, water bottles must only contain water – it is not appropriate for children to be topping up on sugary drinks throughout the day. Water is the only liquid to be brought into class. We are a healthy school and I would appreciate your support on this. All children can and will drink water if they are thirsty!

Please ensure reading books and reading records are sent into school daily. We read every day with the children, and it does hamper changing books and monitoring when books are missing or records are forgotten. Please sign and check comments in reading books and support your child in their next steps. DEAR time sessions (Drop, Everything, and Read) will continue on Monday afternoons starting Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February. These will run from 2.50 –

3.10 for you to come in and use our reading room in the Foundation Class and share stories together with your child.

Thank you

**Mrs Messenger      Mrs Anglim      &      Mrs Kuetineous**