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# English Newsletter—Autumn term 2018

Welcome back! We have a very exciting year ahead of us here at Featherstone Primary School. This newsletter will give a few friendly reminders and let you know some changes to the way we teach English including phonics, reading and spelling here at Featherstone.

## ICE COOL

Ice Cool Spelling is going to continue this year.

Each week on Friday morning, children will be tested on their Ice Cool Spelling words. If they spell all of them correctly, they move to the next level and will receive a new spelling list. If they do not spell all the words correctly, the same list will be sent home again.

Your help with learning these spellings at home is really important and will help your child succeed.

The idea is that the repetition of learning the same list helps children to remember the spellings so that they can then also use them in their work. It should not be seen as a punishment or that it is holding children back.

Ice cool spelling has been so successful that we have had to introduce 2 new mini schemes after Ice cool to accommodate our super spellers! These schemes are called Deep Sea Spelling and Blue Planet Spelling.

**Please ensure that your child brings their spelling diary to school every week.**

## Dates for your diary

Parent meeting—Year 1 phonic check. (3:30pm)	Tuesday 2nd October 2018.
Writing parent workshops for each class. Specific class dates to follow later in the term.	Week commencing 21st and 28th January 2018

### Home reading

Home reading books will continue to be changed weekly. Please leave a note in your child's reading diary when you have read with them. If you do extra reading please tell us about that too! We love to hear the sorts of books children are reading at home.



All children have access to an online reading platform called Bug Club. Teachers can allocate books for the children to read at home using electronic devices.

Keep your eyes peeled for our exciting new reading project! More information coming soon. Watch this space!



### Homework

English homework will be set weekly for your child based on their learning in class. It is important that this homework is completed as it will help your child to consolidate what they have been learning each week.

### Power of Reading

We will be continuing to use the Power of Reading scheme in our English lessons. This scheme enthuses children about reading through unusual and challenging book choices and interesting teaching strategies that include art, drama and music.

### Writing

There are going to be lots of exciting writing projects this year including author visits, writing competitions and as many opportunities as possible for our children to become 'published' authors. Please look out for our books around school.

If you have any questions related to reading, writing, spelling or grammar please do not hesitate to ask your child's class teacher or come and see me personally.

Miss Lacey  
English Leader

