



English Newsletter

This Newsletter is to remind you of important information about English at Featherstone Primary School and to explain some of the changes to our provision in light of **Covid-19**.

Phonics and Reading in Key Stage One



We will be continuing with our phonics and reading scheme called Read Write Inc for Key Stage One. Read Write Inc (R.W.I) is an inclusive literacy programme for all children in Reception and Key Stage One who are learning to read. Children learn the common sounds in the English language and how to blend them to read and spell. The scheme includes both a reading and a writing focus. Some parents have asked me how the levels correlate with each other—please see the below chart that shows progression through colour levels.

Each week, children accessing Red level or above will continue to bring home two books. One is a paper copy of the book they have been reading in school. The idea of this is to build fluency and confidence. They will also bring with them another linked text that they have not yet read. This book will be fully decodable as it will only contain sounds that the children have been taught in their phonic sessions. It is really important that all books are returned to school in good condition and on time as they belong in sets and missing books will hinder other groups of children taking home the resources that they need for that week, especially as **all books will now be quarantined for 72 hours before being used again.**

We had begun to see fantastic results with R.W.I last year but due to the lockdown, despite all efforts made by school and parents, some of our children will have taken a step backwards. This might mean that children are revisiting and repeating a colour band. Please don't see this as a worry or a negative. My hope is that once the children are fully back in the swing of school life that they will catch up and speed through to the new levels and new books. If you have any concerns, please do feel free to request a phone call from Miss Lacey or your class teacher.



Home reading In Key Stage 2

With the current restrictions regarding Covid 19, as a school we have decided that our Key Stage 2 children will not be bringing home paper copies of texts.

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

Your teachers will be sending home login letters during the next week. For children who already have a login, please do check your new letter as passwords may have changed this year.

If you do not have access to the internet, please do let school know and we will



arrange for paper texts to be sent under these circumstances.

Learning Individual sounds and building words

Ditty Stage - reading a few words together

Green Stage

Purple Stage

Pink Stage

Orange Stage

Yellow Stage

Blue Stage

Grey Stage

RWI
Colour
progression

ICE COOL

Ice Cool Spelling has been a fantastic success in our school for the past 3 years. However, in the current climate, we cannot mix our bubbles as we usually would. This means that for the time being Ice Cool Spelling has been put on hold. All of the children's levels have been saved and when we are able to we will resume from where we left off.

Children will however still receive weekly spellings. These will now be chosen by their class teacher inline with the spelling rules and patterns that they have been learning in class that week. Most children in the same class will receive the same spelling lists. Spellings will be sent home on a Friday as usual and will be tested the following week.

You will still be made aware of which spellings, if any, that your child made errors with but children will receive new spellings each week, unlike Ice Cool Spelling.

Children in Key Stage Two will still be asked to use at least 3 of their spellings in a grammatically correct sentence. These sentences must make sense and show that the child understands the meaning of the word.

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

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

100 Book Challenge

Reading lists for this year's Book Challenge will be given out this week.



Each Year group has been given a set reading list of 14 or 15 books to tackle by the end of the school year. The idea is to read as many as possible.

We do have at least 3 copies of each book in school so please make sure the children ask for them. It might be that they are currently on loan but we will do our best to get the copy you want out to you as soon as possible. Returned texts will need to be quarantined for 72 hours.

It's always a pleasure to hear the children talking about the books they are reading. I've even had children come and ask me to order a whole series after finishing the first, which of course I did! If your children have really enjoyed one of books, then please do let me know.

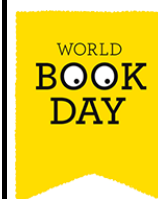
Reading prizes



As you know, I am always looking for new ways to raise the profile of reading in school.

This year, we will be creating a reading prize area. It will be full of good quality children's books. Many of these will be from our 100 Book Challenge.

Throughout the year, children who go above and beyond in school, which could be shown in a whole host of ways will be invited to choose a book from the cabinet as a prize.



Advanced notice!

Thursday 4th March 2021

More information to follow

If you have any questions or you would like to discuss any part of Featherstone's English provision or if I can help in anyway, then please do contact me.

Miss Lacey English Leader

