



English Newsletter—Autumn term 2017

Aspire, Believe, Succeed



National Outstanding Award 2014

Welcome back! We have a very exciting year ahead of us here at Featherstone Primary School. This newsletter is aimed to 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. For those who are new to school, Ice Cool Spelling is a scheme made up of 9 different animal themed levels. The words in the scheme have all been taken from the National Curriculum.

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.

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.

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 week.

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.

Writing

Over the next year, we are going to be having a big push on basic writing skills such as spelling, grammar and punctuation across the whole school to help our children to improve the quality and accuracy of their writing.

Dates for your diary

Parent meeting—Year 1 phonic check. (3:30pm)	Tuesday 3rd October 2017.
Writing parent workshops for each class. Specific class dates to follow later in the term.	Week commencing 22nd and 29th 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.

This information helps us to build a picture of the kind of reader your child is and what their reading interests are.

We are currently in the process of purchasing an online reading system so that teachers can allocate additional levelled books for children to read online at home. These will be accessible on tablets, laptops and smart phones.

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.

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

