



English Newsletter



This Newsletter is to remind you of important information about English at Featherstone Primary School.

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, Year 1 and Year 2 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. Please see the chart shown that indicates 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. Some children might be revisiting and repeating a colour band. Please don't see this as a worry or a negative. 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 Beach or your class teacher.

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



Year 3 — 6 Home Readers and Chromebooks

I am happy to announce that reading books will be given to the children to take home this academic year. At Featherstone we pride ourselves with promoting an ethos and culture of reading for pleasure and we hope that you and the children will share this too. We are very lucky to have been provided a range of fiction and non-fiction books this year to complement our amazing curriculum. Teachers will promote the new books that are linked to our curriculum "So What?" and "Big Idea" learning journeys so that our children know more and remember more.

We are also very lucky to have the opportunity to provide all of our children in Key Stage 2 with their very own Chromebook. Although this was primarily for home learning during lockdown, we are very eager to continue promoting the use of technology with our children to have a positive impact on their learning, especially with their reading.

Over the next few weeks your child will receive a book from their teacher to be taken home to read. A change to this year's home reading is that children in Key Stage 2 will **not be given a home reading record**. Alternatively, the children will be completing their reading record on their Chromebook using Google Classroom. Each week the children will be expected to fill in their home reading record and "Turn in / Submit" it online to their teacher. This platform will allow the children to discuss what was read and what they enjoyed. We are very eager for our children to take part in a dialogue about the books they are reading. The online reading record is for children and parents/carers to fill in where appropriate. Over this half term, teachers will be discussing and modelling with the children how this will be done so that every child is confident. If your child is in Year 3 and new to using a Chromebook, the Year 3 teachers are going to heavily support this during the Autumn term.





EYFS/Key Stage One

For this academic year children in EYFS, Year 1 and Year 2 will receive spellings to learn at home once they reach RWI red level.

The spellings they bring home will be linked to the sounds they are learning in school. They will have 9 words. 3 for each speed sound that will be learning the following week in their RWI lessons. These will come home in their spelling book. Please take time to help you child learn their given words in and out of order.

Spelling books need to be in school each Friday. Your child's RWI teacher will mark spellings in this book so you can keep track of how your child is doing.



Key Stage Two

For this academic year children will be receiving weekly spellings online via Google Classroom. There will be 12 spellings for the children which will include:

- 8 words taken from their year group's spelling pattern objectives
- 2 spellings from the wider curriculum (tricky words from science, history, geography lessons)
- 2 mystery words that the teacher would like the children to practise

Our teachers are excited to tailor-make their spellings this year to specifically support the needs of the children in their class.

Again, we are really eager for our children to use their Chromebooks to enhance their learning. Each week the children will be required to practise their spellings before their spelling test on Friday. The spelling scores will be uploaded to the children's Google Classroom account.

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 and hopefully, by the end of their time at Featherstone, they will have read 100 books — WOW!

We do have 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.

Writing Prizes

As some of you may have seen (the children definitely have!) that we have a new display of prizes to give out this year. Inside the writing prize cabinet is a selection of amazing books that Mr Gaibee and Mr Douglas are desperate to give out.



A prize will be given for any children that go above and beyond and show amazing effort with their writing this year.



I am really looking forward to seeing how much amazing reading and writing our children at Featherstone are going to do this year. During this year, I aim going to be organising a variety of workshops for parents regarding how to support your children with reading and writing at home. Some more information about this will be sent out to you in due course.

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.

Mr Silvester

English Leader



Support for KS2 parents with Google Classroom

Children in Key Stage 2 will be **supported fully in the transition of how we are changing** our spellings and reading record to Google Classroom. You and the children will find the three folders you need below. Once your child has logged onto their classroom (found at www.classroom.google.com) they will click on "Classwork" and see the following page. Here is a summary of each section:

The screenshot shows the 'Classwork' tab in Google Classroom. At the top, there are tabs for 'Stream', 'Classwork', and 'People'. Below the tabs are links for 'View your work', 'Google Calendar', and 'Class Drive folder'. The main content area is divided into three sections:

- Home Reading Record**: A callout box explains it is a weekly record for children's home reading, to be filled in and submitted each week.
- 100 Book Challenge**: A callout box explains that children can add comments about the books they are reading from the "100 Book Club".
- Spelling**: A callout box explains that children can find their spellings for the week here, and that the spelling test will be done in class every Friday.

This close-up shows the 'Spelling' section with a sub-section for 'Week Two Spellings'. Below it, there is a link to 'Week Two Spelling Test'.

Once the children have done their spelling test on Friday, you and your child will be able to look at the score here.

Click on the form and view the score.

This screenshot shows the 'Week Two Spelling Test' form. It includes the title 'Week Two Spelling Test', the creator 'Mr Silvester', the date 'Sep 3', and the points '12 points'. Below this, there is a prompt to 'Complete the Google Quiz on this week's spellings.' and a link to a Google Form titled 'Year'.

This screenshot shows the 'Year' Google Form submission page. It displays the total score as '3/12' and a message: 'The respondent's email (joe.bloggstest@featherstoneprimaryschool.co.uk) was recorded on submission of this form.' Below this, there is a list of questions, with the first one showing a score of '1/1' and the answer 'hello' marked as correct.

Check the total score and the correct/incorrect answers.