



# English Newsletter

This Autumn 2019 English Newsletter will give you important reminders and information about English at Featherstone Primary School.

## Phonics and Reading in Key Stage One



This year, we are introducing a brand new phonics and reading scheme for Key Stage One. The scheme is called Read Write Inc. 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.

Reading is the key that unlocks the whole curriculum so the ability to efficiently decode is essential. The R.W.I sessions occur each day as the continuity and pace of the programme is key to accelerating the progress of children's reading development.

The children will be bringing home a range of resources to help them with their learning. From late October onwards, each week, children will 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. Until October, children in Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to bring home a weekly reading book from the current reading scheme.

The phonics scheme uses a puppet character called Fred the Frog. Fred can only talk in phonic sounds and teaches children to segment and blend to read and spell.



There are lots of resources online linked to Read Write Inc including parent packs that can be purchased online from Amazon or from Oxford University Press.

Parent's meetings regarding the new scheme will be held in the Autumn term. Dates for these will follow by text. All parents are welcome to attend.

## Home reading In Key Stage 2

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. This helps us to build a picture of their reading habits at home.

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.

Your teachers will be sending home login letters next week. For children who already have a login, the details will stay the same.



## 100 Book Challenge

Thank you for your fabulous support with the 100 book challenge last academic year. The challenge continues this year.



Each Year group will be 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. For children who joined us in Reception, if they complete every book list as they pass through school, they will have read 100 books by the time they reach Year 6! The books include classic children's fiction, modern fiction, poetry and non-fiction.

There will be awards and prizes from children who take part in the challenge.

# ICE COOL

Ice Cool Spelling will continue as our spelling programme this 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.

Children who are accessing spellings from Walrus 1 upwards will be asked to put 5 words into grammatically correct sentences. These sentences must make sense and show that the child understands the meaning of the word. If children make errors in the sentence part of their test, they will not pass the level and will not receive a new list.

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. The success also shows in our fabulous Year 6 Spelling and Grammar data!

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

## Power of Reading

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



## Writing

This year, in our writing lessons, there will be a high focus on technical accuracy and extended vocabulary.

It is really important that all our sentences are punctuated correctly, using a range of different age appropriate types of punctuation.

We are also trying to use lots of exciting new words in our work.

At home, it would be great if you could support us with this by playing word games and discussing and looking up any new words that we might find in our reading books or in the world around us.

## Homework

With the changes ahead in relation to homework, please make sure that your child continues to read their home reading book and other books and to practise their spelling on a weekly basis.

Teachers may send home additional work with children if they feel they would benefit from further practice.

Keep your eyes peeled for English competitions, author visits and other exciting English announcements!



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 come and chat to me! I love to hear about children's reading and writing success and my door is always open.

Miss. Lacey English Leader

