



# *Year R* *Bushmead Primary School*

Spring Term 2024

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

**Our Value for January is .... INDEPENDENCE**

**Our well-being theme this half term is .... YOGA AND MEDITATION**

Welcome to the Spring Term and Happy New Year! We hope you all had a wonderful holiday and would like to thank you for all of the beautiful Christmas gifts and cards you sent in, we were very touched by your kindness.

This term we have introduced 'Drawing Club' in Reception. This is a fantastic way of developing vocabulary, reinforcing mathematical concepts, phonics and writing through the wonderful world of stories, books and imaginative drawing. Our first topic was chosen by the children- dinosaurs. Later in the term we shall be learning all about 'The Great Outdoors' and 'Superheroes'. We shall be reading stories about seeds, growing plants and gardens. We will be venturing outside to do some planting in our own gardens, ready for the spring and summer. More details will follow. During the second half of the term we will be continuing to read lots of stories around the topic of superheroes, with a central focus on the 'Supertato' books by Sue Hendra. This is always a popular topic with our children, many exciting activities are planned and we are never sure when Evil Pea might turn up and what mischief he will get into! Other books and topics will be themed around special celebration days for different religions and cultures, alongside themes that interest our children.

## **Reading**

*Reading is the number-one skill for parents to encourage in the early years of school. It gives children the essential building blocks to succeed.*

At Bushmead, we ask that children read a minimum of **THREE** times a week to an adult at home, and that you write a short comment in their reading record each time you do. Some examples of comments have been shared in your child's reading Record of the kind of things you may write. We will continue to change books and check the reading records on Friday.

From the 26th January we will start sending two books home each week and will be inviting you to use the online ECollins library for additional books. These online books are ones the children have been reading in school as part of their guided reading sessions and run alongside our Phonics programme,

Little Wandle. Teachers will update these weekly to add the book your child has been sharing at school. We shall be sending more information on how to access these books next week.

### **Homework**

As you will have seen from the ParentMail sent out on 5th January, home work at Bushmead has changed across the school. All children will be expected to complete three activities across the week:

- **Phonics practise**- these will continue to be the sheets we add to the Reading Records weekly with the phonemes we have learnt that week; words to practise blending and tricky words to learn.
- **Reading**- as outlined above, reading to an adult at least three times a week.
- **Maths**- this will be a task shared with parents via ClassDojo. Photos or short videos of the completed tasks should be shared with the class teacher via ClassDojo.

Maths tasks will be shared on a Friday and need to be returned the following Friday. The first task will be shared on Friday 13th January 2023.

All three homework tasks are to be completed on a weekly basis, as outlined clearly in the Parentmail, they are not optional. Teachers will be monitoring engagement and will be following up if homework is not being completed. If you do encounter any problems with any aspect of the homework, please speak to the class teacher as soon as possible and we will be more than happy to offer support

### **Summer Uniform Reminder**

It is a little strange to be thinking of the summer term and warmer weather as it is so cold at present, however we know some parents and carers like to be super organised! Please be aware our summer uniform differs from Years 1-6.

**ALL** children will be expected to wear:

- ★ Plain black PE shorts- not cycling shorts style or leggings
- ★ A plain white polo shirt- as for the winter uniform
- ★ A plain red sweatshirt- as for the winter uniform
- ★ Plain white or black socks
- ★ Plain black or white trainers

**Summer school dresses, skirts or culottes are not part of the summer uniform, so please do not purchase these.**

Summer uniforms can be worn when we return to school after the Easter holidays.

## **Dates and Events**

- 10th January- Chinese New Year Activity Day
- 8th February - Internet Safety Week
- 19th - 23rd February - Half term
- 26th February - Spring Term 2 begins
- 1st March- St. David's Day Activities
- 4th March- World Book Day Week
- 15th March- Red Nose Day

- 17th March- St. Patrick's Day Activities
- 18th and 20th March- Parent and Teacher Consultations- details to follow
- 25th March- Easter Activities
- 28th March- end of term
- 12th April- INSET day for staff- no pupils
- 15th April- Summer term 1 begins

## Curriculum Overview

### Phonics

- ★ Learning the phonemes: ai ee igh oa ar or oo (zoom) oo (book) ur ow oi ear air er
- ★ Continuing to practise word building and blending, including words with double letters: dd mm tt bb rr gg pp ff and longer words
- ★ Learn the tricky words: was you they my by all are sure pure

### Maths

- ★ Subitising, counting and ordering numbers to 5
- ★ Using ordinal numbers to describe order (1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc)
- ★ Using the part-part-whole model to look at different ways to make 5, 6 and 7
- ★ Comparing amounts using the language of 'more than' 'fewer than' and 'equal to'

### Skills

- ★ To join in stories using actions, props and repetition
- ★ To write words, captions and sentences- labels, explanations, descriptions and story endings
- ★ To write, illustrate and perform our own versions of stories
- ★ To talk about their environment and make suggestions for how it could be better
- ★ To make observational drawings and paintings of plants and flowers using a range of materials and tools
- ★ To learn about and investigate the life cycle of a plant
- ★ To carry out simple experiments to find out what seeds need to grow
- ★ To help plant seeds and bulbs in our garden, make observations and talk about changes they see
- ★ To use ICT to record ideas, performances and take photographs
- ★ To design and make a superhero character
- ★ To use a range of tools to prepare fruit and vegetables for cooking

### PE

- ★ To perform balances using different parts of their bodies, showing good control
- ★ To learn how to perform different rolls (log, teddy bear and forward)
- ★ To link movements together to create short routines, and thinking about how to improve their performances

### Music

- ★ Continue to build our singing skills
- ★ Practise following a conductor when playing percussion instrument

Kind regards,

**The Reception Team**

**Miss Kiff, Miss Kelly and Mrs. Padgett**

## Our Vision:

**At Bushmead, children are empowered to be active, confident learners where they are inspired to creative and excel.**

