



J1 Spring Newsletter 2019

Welcome back, Happy New Year! We hope you all had a lovely Christmas. This term is English term and the school focus is **Grammar!**

In J1 we will be looking at capital letters and full stops as a starting point. Writing takes on many forms and we would like to encourage you to look at comic strips, suitable newspaper cuttings, poetry, non-fiction, letters and cards with your children. Show them how you write lists or 'Post-its' so they can see the practical application of what they are learning. In class, we are continuing to develop fine-motor skills by cutting, threading, sticking and modelling with playdough.

We would like to encourage you to put down computer games and turn off mobile phones and tablets for an hour a week to allow time for shared activities and stories with the whole family.

Reading

Reading continues to be a major focus at this level and picture books are great for children of Reception age. They can be encouraged to read some of the words they recognise and discuss the pictures with you, as well as having some important time with you to share and converse.

If you have older children in the family, encourage them to read to the younger members who love to have a story read to them.

We would like to encourage you to find different books for your children to enjoy and maybe ones that we don't have at school, to broaden

their knowledge and understanding. Also as they begin to read more words, you may like to find books to read and enjoy at home other than our Oxford Reading Tree scheme with Chip, Biff and Kipper – variety is the key!

At the moment, the children are learning to de-code and we are teaching the high-frequency sight words so that when they start to read the stories, they make sense and are enjoyable. Children need to be able to understand what they are reading and re-tell the story in their own words rather than just de-coding words on a page.

Reading throughout the school is based on understanding of the text or story. Please discuss the story or words with your child as they may be able to read the word, but may not know what it means. This is very important for their future work in comprehension. Even discussing the picture can lead to conversations about characters and the plot and extends their vocabulary.

Our next topic will be based on a Space and Aliens theme. The following books will be used in school:

- Q Pootle 5 in Space
- The Man on the Moon
- Bob's Best Ever Friend
- We're Off to Look for Aliens
- Here Come the Aliens
- Roaring Rockets
- Aliens in underpants



We would be very happy to share any favourite 'alien' themed books you may have at home as well as any factual books you may have about space or the solar system.

This topic will extend across the areas of learning and will provide opportunities to look at non-fiction books about space and spacecraft, rockets and the lunar landings, amongst other things.

Expressive Arts

We need boxes for modelling – any shapes or size - so if you have any, rather than recycle them, please bring them in.

Letterland

We will be revising the letter sounds and introducing the 'Best Friends' (double consonants *ss ll ff zz ck*) – these are two letters but they only make one sound together, for example, 'miss' or 'well'.

Handwriting

We are working on anticlockwise turns in letters c, o, a, d, g, q and s. Children are becoming more confident and we do lots of pre-writing activities to aid their pencil control.

Waterproofs

Waterproofs and wellies need to be returned to school in a named carrier bag by Wednesday 9th January. Please also provide gloves and a hat as the weather can be cold at this time of year. If your child has an old coat or jacket at home, you may like to send this in to go under their waterproofs for extra warmth as we go out in all weathers!

Parking

We have parents/carers within the school who need access to the disabled parking bay (just outside of J1) Please be mindful of this even when in a rush. Please also do not obstruct our school gate, access to field and the passing bays.

Forthcoming Events

Between now and half term:

Clubs registration: 11th January

Prospective parent's open morning:

9.15- 12pm: 26th January

FOMC – Family disco 1st February

J1 Coffee morning: 15th February
8:45am

S4 Bring and Buy Sale: 15th
February

Half term commences: 16th Feb

Please look at the school website regularly for updates

www.mertoncourtprep.co.uk and be sure to sign up to 'Classlist' to stay in touch with everyone in J1.

Snacks

Just a reminder that we do encourage the children to bring in two healthy snacks – fruit is ideal and no chocolate, crisps or **nuts** please.

Uniform

In order that your lost items may be returned to you quickly, please would you ensure that all items of uniform are **visibly labelled**.

Due to the colder weather children should bring a school coat everyday as well as a blazer. Children may also wear school woolly hats and scarves, and gloves must be school colours.

Merit badges should be removed from blazers as we start afresh this term.

We look forward to a busy and successful term.

The J1 Team.