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MERTON COURT
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J1 Autumn Newsletter (2) 2024

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn Term. We are looking forward to a busy few weeks, starting with Bonfire Night and Remembrance this week. We would also like to welcome Mrs Reynolds and Miss Downs to the J1 team and welcome back to Ms Robinson.

Independence:

As the children have now settled into the Junior school, we are encouraging them to become increasingly more independent. The skills we are working on are:

- putting on and taking off our own blazers and coats.
- taking off our own school uniform and putting items of clothing the correct way around.
- putting on and taking off our own school shoes, wellington boots and plimsols.
- packing and unpacking our own book bags, school bags and swimming bags. (Including putting our own swimming bags into our school bag after our swimming lessons).
- opening and closing our own water bottles and snack boxes.
- writing our own names.
- knowing when to and being able to say sorry.
- asking for help from friends.
- knowing how to make oneself feel better when angry.
- thinking of ways to sort things out when there is a disagreement.
- understanding when other people are angry.
- walking into the school gate independently.
- carrying and being responsible for all of their own belongings to and from school.

Letterland

Thank you to everyone who attended our Letterland evening we do hope that you found it useful.

We are continuing to revise initial sounds and blend them to make words. The children know the Letterland characters and the sounds they make but are at different

stages in hearing and identifying sounds in words, as well as blending sounds. This is largely developmental and cannot be hurried, but all the children benefit from regular practice and lots of praise!

Once key words have been mastered you can use them at home to build new words by substituting first the initial, then the final and middle sounds. For example, Dad can be used to build these words by substituting the initial sound:

Dad, bad, fad, had, lad, mad, pad, sad

We can then change the end sound for Dad, or any of the words made by substitution above:

*Dad, dab,
bad, bag, ban, bap(soft bread roll), bat
fad, fan, fat
had, hag, ham, has, hat*

Changing the middle sound of any of the above words provides us with:

*did, dud
bed, bid, bud
beg, big, bog, bug
Ben, bin, bun
bop
bet, bit, but
fit
fin, fun
hit, hot, hut
hog, hug
hem, him, hum
his
hid*

In this way your child will learn to use words they know to build new words.

Reading

The children are doing well with their high frequency words, and we will be sending a few more home as the term progresses.

Some of these words are not decodable and will need to be learnt by sight. The more words added to a child's sight vocabulary the more fluently they will be able to read.

The children will also continue to build on their high frequency word (tricky word) knowledge and should continue to practise these at home. We encourage parents to stick these words on their fridges, around their homes as well as creating flash cards of these words to practise regularly with their children.

Uniform

As the weather turns cooler, please would you ensure that your child has a pair of mittens or gloves at school along with one extra layer of clothing such as an old fleece or jumper to go under their waterproofs for Forest School.

We would also request that (if they don't already) they have a red school ski hat to remain in their school bags. Any children's spare socks or gloves you may no longer need would be most welcome to keep at school as spares, even if they are odd!

Please could you ensure that all items of school uniform are clearly labelled, this can be done at home as an activity with your child so that they can find their own items of uniform more easily.

A gentle reminder that many of the children are unable to tie their own shoelaces at this stage! Please, if possible, may your children wear Velcro shoes and trainers to school.

Parents' Evening

Parents' Evening will be held on Tuesday 12th November. An editable timetable to book appointments will go up on the J1 Google Drive on Monday 4th November.

Junior Christmas Production

J1 have started their rehearsals for the Junior Christmas Production. We look forward to presenting this to you on Wednesday 5th December at 9.00am and Friday 6th December at 9.00am & 2.00pm. Further details will follow closer to the time.

Driving & Parking

Please drive slowly and carefully on school premises. In the afternoons, children may well have games or clubs on the school fields, and we need to be mindful of their safety.

Our 'drop off lane' should be used to do just that; please do not block it by parking - however briefly. If your child is not old enough or able to exit the car by themselves, please drive into the carpark,

find a space and then walk them to their appropriate gate.

Please remember to park considerately. The disabled parking bays should only be used by those with mobility issues or a blue badge.

Many thanks for your continued help with this.

Dates for your diary

Friday 8th November: School Remembrance Service 10am (Senior School)

FOMC Bonfire Night 6pm

Tuesday 12th November: J1 Parents' Evening (Sign-Up Sheet on the Google Drive)

Wednesday 20th November: Prospective Parents Open Day 9.15am – 2pm

Friday 29th November: FOMC Christmas Bazaar (More info to follow)

Thursday 5th December: Junior Christmas Production 9am

Friday 6th December: Junior Christmas Production 9am & 2pm

Tuesday 10th December: J1 School trip to the Cinema (Moana 2)

Wednesday 11th December: Christmas Lunch (Remember - No Hat, No Lunch!)

Friday 13th December: Christmas Jumper Day

Monday 16th December: Christmas Parties

Tuesday 17th December: School Carol Service @ St Johns Church 6pm – 7pm.

Wednesday 18th December: Term Ends
Please note that school ends at midday. (No hats, no caps, on the last day of term).



Thank you for your continued support,

Miss Amphlett, Miss Hall and The J1 Team.