

# Year 1 Autumn 1 Newsletter

## Attendance

Regular attendance is essential to ensure uninterrupted progress and to enable children to exceed their potential. We actively involve the children in achieving this by holding weekly assemblies with a reward for each class who has 100% attendance. Certificates are awarded termly and yearly for all children who achieve 100%. With these rewards in place, the children wholeheartedly strive to be part of the winning class and the support of each other is a pleasure to see; please support your child and ensure they are regular attenders.

Good attendance is important because: your child needs to be in the academy to be able to learn and achieve; lessons are taught in a sequence and it can be difficult to catch up if a lesson is missed; children need to have relationships with others and to form lasting friendships; it develops a child's confidence to attempt new work and to work alongside others.

## Pupil Reward Points

### Being in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing!

The reward scheme allows children to earn points for showing 'Green Behaviour' which may consist of trying hard in their work, being courteous and polite (possibly holding a door open), showing respect to others, arriving at school in time for registration and having the correct uniform. Children also earn 5 points if they are picked to celebrate their work in the Thursday 'Star of the Week' assembly. Children additionally earn points through job roles - the wage of points is preparing children for their later life. Children save points and spend them at the academy swap shop.



## Writing

Every two weeks, the Spiders and the Bears will be studying a specific story linked to their Topic which will serve as a stimulus to their writing in lessons. This term we will be looking at a variety of stories - some with a twist! We will be looking at a range of text types; including narratives, and reports.

There is an additional 30 minute **phonics and handwriting** session four times a week.

We also have a daily **guided reading** session in which children do a range of activities such as focused work with the teacher, comprehension, phonics tasks and the use of ICT.

**Big Writing** is part of this pattern and allows the children to produce an independent piece of extended writing, to 'show off' what they know and have learnt.

Your child has a **home reading book**. This book is appropriate for the level your child is secure at and is classed as an 'easy read' to give them confidence and help with their comprehension. We ask for you to write a comment in your child's reading journal based on how they read and find the text. Reading books are changed once a week.

**Blogging** forms an important part of our learning and we are keen for all children to share their ideas via the blog both at home and in school on a regular basis.



## Maths

The Spiders and Bears are learning to count and **reason**. This enables the children to explain how they get their answers and explores their answers. One way to help children use their reasoning skills is within questioning, such as:

- How do you know...?
- How did you solve the problem...?
- Prove how you know...?

We also have weekly arithmetic papers on a Friday to test our mental maths knowledge so we recommend plenty of addition, subtraction and times table (x2, x5 and x10) practise at home.



## Reading

To promote *reading for pleasure*, we have Bug Club.

Bug Club is a fantastic online resource that allows reading to be interactive and exciting. It takes children on a personalised reading journey where the only limits are their imaginations. Not only does it allow children to read a range of books online, but it also delivers comprehension style questioning to promote children's understanding of the books that they have read.

All children should have been provided with usernames and passwords for the website. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher if you require another copy. [www.activelearnprimary.co.uk](http://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk)



## P.E.

**Spiders** lessons are on **Monday (outdoor)** and **Tuesday (indoor)**

**Bears** lessons are on **Monday (outdoor)** and **Tuesday (indoor)**

The academy has supplied each child with an indoor P.E. kit.

**Please bring trainers and an outdoor PE kit on your child's outdoor PE day. Outdoor PE shoes are essential for the safety of your children. Please see the uniform policy on the website for further details.**

## Homework

Homework will be set each week.

It will consist of:

- **Maths** - This goes out on a Friday and is to be completed by the following Thursday.
- **Spellings**—These are to be practised in preparation for a weekly spelling test every Friday.
- **Talk Homework** - This will be sent out on a Wednesday in preparation for Friday's Big Write. This encourages children to talk about their writing ideas at home with an adult.
- **Reading**—Each child will have their own reading book, which they will need to practise at home. Children are required to read 4 x a week at home.

**Ensuring this is completed every week, children will be rewarded with a reward trip at the end of the term!**

## Topic

This term our topic will be focussed around the question  
**'Why can't a meerkat live in the North Pole?'**



As **GEOGRAPHERS** we will be learning all about hot and cold places. We will be exploring which animals live in hot and cold places. We will also be learning about the weather and recording our observations.

As **WRITERS** we will be learning to always use finger spaces, capital letters, full stops and adjectives to improve our writing. We will be writing short reports and stories.

As **ARTISTS** we will be exploring how artists use hot and hot and cold colours to create mood. We will exploring different mediums such as painting, wax crayons and collage. We will be creating our own art work using hot and cold colours.

### Remember to keep up to date with us!

@EPAYear1

Blog: [estcourtprimary.net](http://estcourtprimary.net)



The children love having replies and retweets on our twitter accounts. A huge thank you to all of the families and friends that have followed us! Please continue to encourage our children by replying and commenting on our tweets.

Website: [www.estcourtprimary.org.uk/](http://www.estcourtprimary.org.uk/)