

15<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope you enjoy the Christmas break and get plenty of time to relax over the festive season. On behalf of myself and Mrs Bell, we would like to thank you all for being hugely supportive during this settling in period. All children within Squirrels have impressed staff from across the school and we are very proud of them and greatly enjoy working with them!

Please find below an overview of the next term as well as any new information to be aware of. Please also find attached a copy of the curriculum map for this term.

### **Topics**

For the first half of the spring term we will be doing the following topics: 'Dungeons and Dragons' which will be based all around castles with our key text being 'Zog' and 'The Great Race' which will be based around *Chinese New Year* and our key text being 'Cleversticks'.

### **Literacy**

#### **Phonics**

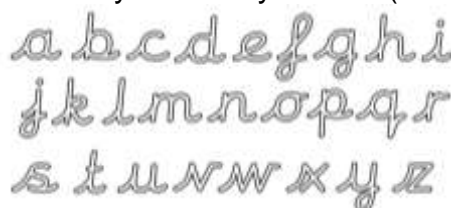
We will continue to use *Read Write Inc. Phonics* to learn new sounds and learn how to build and decode words for reading and writing. Please continue to use the Sound Detective book to support your child with learning the sounds and work on hearing the initial, middle and end sounds in words.

#### **Reading**

In order to continue to support and develop your child's reading please listen to them read for 5/10 minutes every day. It is very important that children develop their comprehensive reading skills by discussing the pictures and characters in the stories, this includes predicting what might happen next and discussing whether predictions were correct. When appropriate, help them to sound out new words and remember that 'tricky/ red' words need to be recognised rather than sounded out for example; the, to, go, I and no.

#### **Writing**

Once your child becomes confident with blending, they will begin to focus on separating the sounds in words for writing. Your child will continue to practise writing their name at school, beginning with an upper case letter and the rest as lower case letters. Please continue to practise forming the letters using the cursive style with your child- if they are ready for this (cursive letters shown below).





## **Maths**

This term we will continue to look at number, beginning to talk about adding and subtraction using objects. For example: playing games with the cars: *'There are 3 cars lined up for a race, 1 more car joins, how many cars are in the race? 3 cars add 1 car equals 4 cars.'* We will be learning about height, using the language of tall, short, taller, shorter, tallest, shortest. We will also be learning about the use of money and maybe begin to recognise and count using coins too.

Please can you also continue to support your child with recognising numbers and begin to use some of the language of addition, subtraction, height and money, when possible, at home.

## **Useful Websites**

'Teach your monster to read'

[www.teachyourmonstertoread.com](http://www.teachyourmonstertoread.com)

'Phonics Play'- for a variety of phonics games

<http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

'ict games'- for a variety of maths games

<http://www.ictgames.com/resources.html>

'Top Marks'- for a variety of maths and literacy games

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/>

We hope you enjoy these resources and if you have any questions or difficulties, please do not hesitate to contact either of us.

## **Physical Development/ PE**

We will continue with PE inside whilst the weather is still very cold (plimsolls not needed yet). I will let you know when we decide to do outside PE so that you can provide the appropriate clothing. Please ensure that all items of clothing are **named** as PE and school clothes may get mixed up during changing times.

**Please ensure that no earrings are worn on PE days.**

PE will now be during the following times: Tuesday AM and Wednesday AM

Some children are finding cutting with scissors challenging. Please encourage your child to use scissors and to do any kind of cutting out at home. Please make sure they hold them correctly to ensure more accurate cutting. If you would like some cutting out resources please come and see us.



## **Coming into School**

Many of you are now letting your children come into school independently. This is great as Squirrels' children are becoming hugely independent as a result of this! Please continue to encourage your child to be independent. Although, if you need to speak with myself or another member of staff, please still feel free to pop inside.

## **Tapestry Online Learning Journals**

Just a reminder that we will continue to use *Tapestry Online Learning Journals*. Please share exciting experiences from home so that we can celebrate all aspects of your child's learning and gather a more rounded picture of their development.

## **Wellington Boots**

Please make sure that your child has a pair of **named** wellington boots to be kept at school.

## **Coats**

Please remember to send a **named** coat to school **every day**, we go outside for 50% of our time in **all** weather conditions. The coat can be a 'packamac' and kept in their school bag.

## **Forest School**

Forest School will occur at some point during the end of Spring Term or start of Summer Term and will be lead by our Forest School Leader (more information closer to the time).

## **Staff Members**

**Class Teacher:** Mrs Malt

**Teaching Assistant:** Mrs Bell

**PPA Cover (Tuesday Afternoon):** There are changes to the PPA timetable for most of the school. Mrs Schofield will no longer be covering PPA time in Squirrels. This will now be covered by Mrs Bell alongside another Teaching Assistant.

Please find attached a curriculum information sheet for this term.

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact a member of staff.

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs Malt**