



## Welcome!

This is the first English Newsletter! We want to keep you up to date with all that is going on to do with reading, writing and phonics in school.



**Key Stage 1 staff in phonics training!**

## Phonics:

Last week, all members of staff who work with children from Nursery to Year 2 were given their first full day (out of 3) of phonics training in a new scheme called, 'Read, Write, Inc'. We spent a long time looking into a program which could be fun and quick paced to help children with learning the initial sounds as they begin to read and write. There will be a parent meeting on Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> of May at 3.30pm for all parents and carers to come and find out about it. The only exciting clue I'll give you is... Ask your child about the 'Marshmallow Clap'!

## Spelling Homework Books:

All children will now have their new spelling homework books given to them by their class teacher. A reminder:

Reception: Between 1 and 3 high frequency words put in their spelling homework book a week for them to find in their reading books.

Year 1 and 2: 5 common exception words (see list).

Year 3- 6: 20 words at the start of a half term that will form part of 40 that are tested at the end of each half term. These will be a mixture of taught spelling patterns from the previous half term and some words from their current half term topic. They can use the strategies taught in their SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) lessons.

## Million Minute Challenge:

You may remember when I walked around the playground giving out free bookmarks and door hangers, asking you and your children to read, read, read! Well... It worked! A **massive** thank you to all who made a big effort to read that week and record your minutes. We came 13 out of 251 schools in the country who took part! Thank you!

## Spelling and Grammar Parent Meeting:

Thank you to all who attended the information about the new spelling and grammar scheme for Year 2 upwards. We had over 50 parents come to discuss and learn about it!

## World Book Day:

A few weeks ago Dovecote participated in World Book Day. A great effort in costumes as a character from a book! We worked in our house teams all morning and gave out a lot of prizes. Our focus for the day was the author **Oliver Jeffers**. If you would like to borrow some of his books, please visit the library! (see below).

## Coming up...

### Library opening hours:

In school: Wednesday afternoons (led by our wonderful librarian, Julie.) This is an opportunity for KS2 children to visit and change their book or have some free time reading books that capture their interest and imagination!

After school: Every Monday. Starting from the 8<sup>th</sup> of May. 3.20 – 4pm. Parents must accompany children.

Come and read with your child or encourage them to change their book!

### Extreme reading competition:

This week you would have had a letter about our new competition! Grab your camera and snap a picture of your child in the strangest and most extreme position while reading! An amazing prize for all children who get onto the display board. Closes on Monday the 5<sup>th</sup> of June.

Miss Hardy

