

Dosbarth Afal, Year 1 & 2 Spring Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year to you all!

It's wonderful to see all the children back in school safe and well after the Christmas holiday. They've loved sharing their festive news, it was fabulous to hear all about their celebrations!

Thank you so much for your kind and generous gifts and cards; they are truly appreciated.

Topic Work

This half term our topic is **Exploring Space**. We'll be discovering amazing facts about stars, planets, and moons. The children will investigate why the moon changes shape, learn how day and night happen, explore what causes the seasons, and find out about space exploration and the incredible journeys astronauts have made.

Reading and Key words

Working together makes all the difference!

The partnership between home and school is key to helping your child become a confident reader. Spending a little time each day reading together and practising sounds, keywords, and spellings really helps your child make great progress.

Please remember to return bookbags to school every **Monday or Wednesday**, depending on your child's group. Thank you for your continued support, it truly makes a big impact on their learning journey!

Reading Tip: Let your child choose the book! When they pick a story, they're excited about, reading becomes a fun adventure rather than a chore. You could even take turns choosing books to keep it interesting!

Fun and practical ideas to promote reading when out and about:

1. Read Signs and Labels

- Encourage your child to read road signs, shop names, menus, and posters while walking or driving.
- Play "Spot the Word" - who can find the longest word or a word starting with a certain letter?

2. Shopping

- Let your child read the shopping list and tick off items.

- Ask them to read labels on food packaging and find words they recognise.

3. Restaurant Menus

- Have your child read the menu and choose their meal.
- Play a game: "Find all the words that start with 'C' on the menu."

4. Bus or Train Adventures

- Read timetables, station names, and maps together.
- Ask questions like "What time does the next bus leave?" or "Which stop comes after ours?"

5. Park and Playground

- Read information boards, safety signs, and maps.

6. Library or Bookshop Visits

- Let them choose a book and read the blurb aloud.
- Encourage them to read signs for different sections (e.g., "Fiction," "Non-fiction").

7. Everyday Errands

- Read receipts, tickets, and appointment cards.
- Ask them to read instructions on machines (e.g., parking meters, ATMs).

Numeracy/Maths

Please continue developing and consolidating maths skills at home, try these activities:

- Counting:
 - Play "Count and Clap" - clap as you count in 1's, 10s, 5s, or 2s.
 - Use everyday objects (coins, Lego, pasta) to count forwards and backwards.
- Year 2 Times Tables (10s and 5s):
 - Sing times table songs or use online games like 'Hit the Button'.
 - Play "Times Table Bingo" - write answers on cards and call out questions.
- Telling the Time (o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to):
 - Use an analogue clock at home - ask "What time is it now?"
 - Play "Time Hunt" - hide cards with times around the house for your child to find and read.
- Days and Months:

- Create a colourful calendar together and mark special dates.
- Sing days-of-the-week and months-of-the-year songs.
- Shapes (2D and 3D):
 - Go on a "Shape Hunt" around the house or outside - find circles, squares, cubes, etc.
 - Build 3D shapes using playdough or Lego.
- Learn Its:
 - Play quick-fire "Number Bond Challenge" - how many ways to make 10/20?
 - Use flashcards for doubles and adding small numbers.
 - Play 'Hit the Button' online games.

General Reminders:

Clothing - The weather is very changeable, and we aim to spend as much time outdoors as possible. Please ensure your child has a warm, waterproof coat. Gloves, a hat, and a scarf would also be helpful to keep them cosy.

If you haven't already done so, please label all your child's belongings. If they are still learning to fasten their coat or tie their laces, please continue practising these skills at home. Thank you for your support!

Water Bottles - Please ensure your child brings a clearly named water bottle to school each day, water only, please. Use a permanent pen or sticker for labelling.

Snack Time - If you haven't already signed up and would like your child to have school fruit snacks during the week, please visit ParentPay to arrange this - **the last day to sign up for this term is Sunday 11th January**. On 'Free Friday', only one small snack is needed.

Physical Development Afternoons - Every Wednesday, your child should come to school wearing their full PE kit:

- Joggers/leggings/shorts
- House colour T-shirt
- Trainers
- Jumper

Each Wednesday afternoon, groups rotate through physical activities such as ball skills, gymnastics, dance and outdoor games. Some activities may require shoes and socks to be removed, so please ensure your child can do this independently.

As some sessions will be outdoors, a raincoat with a hood is essential. If you have a spare pair of wellies, please send them in a labelled bag so they can be kept on your child's peg for the term.

Thank you for your continued support! If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to speak to me, I'm usually available before the bell or after school.

Mrs Sully