

### Home Reading

The children in Penguin Class have a variety of reading activities throughout the week: guided, shared, independent and individual but reading is vital to your child's learning and there is an expectation that your child also reads at home throughout the week. We request at least 3 home reads a week with a comment written in their reading record book.

- Books will be changed every Monday morning. Could I please ask that books are not changed throughout the week as I keep a record within class of which books are taken from the school premises.
- Your child will choose 2 books suited to their reading level (these do vary in complexity and length but are suited to their phonetic level). From time to time the children will also choose a book from the library. If this book happens to be above their reading level please share the book with them, asking them to read the odd word you know they are capable of reading and discuss the pictures.
- Records will be checked when books are changed for the prior week. **Please remember that the home reads will be checked and if your child has not read the requested times they will catch up on their reads during break.**
- Remember to ask questions about the book or pages your child has read to check their understanding of the story. Take time to look at and discuss the pictures and their links to the words on the page. A lot of children don't realize the pictures can be a great help to understanding what is happening.
- Feel free to share and read a range of texts with your child. They may wish to read a magazine to you or the television paper. They could read the shopping list or you could take turns at reading a chapter book like James and the Giant Peach. All of this is acceptable reading to go in their reading records as long as it is varied.
- Encourage your child to read the same book more than once as it develops their reading speed, word recognition and understanding of the story itself. I for one take great joy in reading books I have enjoyed more than once and often absorb some information I hadn't before.

I hope this has been helpful. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Mrs Pickering

**Spring Term 2017 (January to March)**    **Theme: Superheroes – What makes a hero to you?**

Maths	Maths will be taught using the new National Curriculum with lots of exciting activities to embed maths in a real context. This term the children will be addressing number and place value, calculation and fractions with a particular focus on written methods to support conceptual development.
English	Children will be exploring poetry, fiction and non-fiction through the use of persuasion texts, non-chronological reports, recounts and riddles. They will be using the strategy of 'Talk for Writing' to learn example texts then innovate to make it their own. Various activities such as: role play, hot seating and grammar games will be used as a means of developing language and the writing skills for the text focus.
Phonics	Phase six phonics will continue to be taught using our new Read Write Inc spelling programme. This will teach the children the various spelling patterns they will need to progress their writing as well as the importance of punctuation and grammar. It will be taught alongside Phase 6 phonics as some areas of the Read, Write Inc Spelling programme does not cover certain areas in as much detail as I would prefer.
Science	Learning will focus on the theme of materials, the solar system and the human body. The children will explore what materials are good for certain purposes (what is the best material for a super suit?), name the planets of our solar system and learn basic first aid skills as well as name and identify parts of the body and internal organs.
Geography and History	We will be learning about the continents and oceans as well as journeys made by historical figures. Historical figures will be taught in more detail, recognising their contribution to their work and how their work has influenced our world today. Florence Nightingale will be a key focus during this time but other people will also be addressed within supporting subjects.
PE	P.E. lessons will have a particular focus on gymnastics. <b>Please ensure children have the correct kit in school as we are limited on spare clothes and shoes – shorts, t-shirt (<u>no buttons</u>) and plimsolls. <u>Hair must be tied back and earrings removed (for gymnastics they cannot be covered with tape or plasters).</u> P.E. will be on <u>Tuesday mornings</u>.</b> After half term the P.E. focus will change to games in which the children will practise ball skills, team skills and the importance of endurance and bettering their efforts from their previous lesson (possible army based boot camp).
ICT	The children will be using ICT to explore and be able to log into their individual accounts. They will also gain access to their class based VLE page and Mathletics account, all of which can be accessed at home. Please don't forget to use Mathletics at home. It is a highly enjoyable activity page and will benefit their learning as all activities are creating in accordance to the national curriculum (just remember to click on their correct year group at the top of the page before starting an activity).
PSHE / Philosophy	Within PATHS the children will establish a positive classroom environment with the mini themes of 'high fives', 'E-Safety', 'Class Rules' and 'Using your brain for effective learning'. Lessons will have a greater focus on Philosophy and the Growth Mind-set. By this we mean the children will be encouraged to take more responsibility of their work, keeping in mind what they can do to improve, develop or further understand what they have done. This links to our concept of 'Learning to Learn' through the development of resilient and independent learners.
Music	We are still very lucky to be receiving music lessons from Blake who will continue to teach us various drumming skills. The children will also sing on a weekly basis either within key stage groups or as a whole school as well as learn songs in class to support their learning.
RE	The children will be learning about sense of belonging within a family and groups both in and out of school. They will be exploring the 5 ks (Sikhism), Kippah (Judaism), Chaddor (Islam) etc... They will additionally look at the ceremonies of belonging, i.e. christenings, dedication, baptism and aqqa.
Art/D&T	The children will explore colour this term, recognising various colours and learning how to mix colours to make others from the three primary colours available (red, yellow and blue). They will learn and explore the work of Andy Warhol who creates 'Pop' art and will create front covers for their theme books, turning themselves into their very own superhero.