

# Italy Class Newsletter



Dear Parents

Welcome back after half term. I can't believe how quickly this year is flying by and we are heading towards Easter! The following is a rough guide of what is happening this half term. If you have any questions, please ask and we will try our best to help.

## Mornings

The children have settled into the routines very well but please still encourage them to independently complete their jobs. Please encourage your children to find an activity quickly at one of the tables which will be usually based around developing their fine motor skills. Once your child is settled at a table please don't hover around as we will be asking children to come and complete different jobs to support their learning so it is really important that the children are on time and put their own things away quickly. Obviously if it is something urgent please do make sure you speak to us.

If children bring in a snack, could you please remind them to put it in their drawer so they can get to it easily during the day rather than leaving it in their book bags. Please keep your child's snack to something small as they don't have a lot of time to eat it and have a run around at playtime. It would also help if they put hats, gloves and scarves in their drawers to get to easily and **please make sure they are named** and are in school everyday throughout the winter as we don't have enough spares for everyone.

## PE

Our PE will continue to be on a Thursday and a Friday this half term. One of these will be gymnastics, using the large apparatus and the other will be an outside PE session. The timetable as always is flexible, so please leave PE kits in school all week and **please make sure it is still all named**.

## Reading and keywords

The children are enjoying the shared library books and their school reading books. We will be changing reading books on a Thursday and a tick, initial or comment is needed to let me know that they have read to you, in order for me to change their book. The children have made great progress already with their reading and recognition of sounds and sight words on the red cards. More of these will be sent home throughout the term to keep learning. It is still really important to encourage children to sound out words which they are unfamiliar with but starting to encourage them to sound out words in their head before reading them. The children are enjoying learning the Read Write Inc rhymes for the new set 2 sounds. I have sent these home so please keep practicing these. Once I feel they are ready I will 'benchmark' to assess whether they should move up to the next colour book level. This process involves retelling the story without visual clues, answering comprehension questions, using picture clues to help with unfamiliar words as well as phonics and sight word recognition. The texts we use are unfamiliar to the children so we get an accurate level of assessment knowing which areas the children still need to work on if they do struggle. Please remember all children develop at their own pace and not all children are assessed at the same time in the week or term so don't not compare with other children in the class.

## Independent writing

As the children are becoming more confident when writing of simple words and are eager to use their 'Fred fingers' to help them sound out words which they want to write phonetically. Please encourage this at home too with the set 1 and set 2 sounds which have been sent home.

### **Topics**

Over this half term our topic is 'Pets' starting with a pet shop role play area which will turn into a vets surgery as we move through the term. We will also be talking about signs of spring. However if the children's interests change, we may make slight changes along the way.

### **Reminder**

Please only encourage your child to bring in something from home which is linked to our focus topics for show and tell. Recently children have been bringing in 'toys' which we discourage throughout school.

As always if you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask myself, Mrs Parker or Mrs Gabriele

Mrs Whaley