

# Italy Class Newsletter



Dear Parents

Welcome back to our final term - it's hard to believe we have nearly completed a full year in school. 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.

Hopefully this half term we will be blessed with lovely warm weather and hope to spend a lot of time outside. With this in mind please could you please make sure that children come to school wearing sun cream if it looks like it is going to be a sunny day and to bring a hat or cap. Please also provide extra sun cream to keep in their drawer for a top up at lunchtime. Although it may be sunny, it can still be a bit chilly especially at playtimes and when the sun leaves the garden area in the afternoon so please make sure children come to school with a coat. They are outside for quite a while at lunchtimes and really need a coat to wear as it can be rather cold when it's windy especially as we are so near the coast.

## Mornings

Please continue to 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 children to put it in their drawer first thing in the morning 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.

## Lunchtimes

At the start of this half term a new lunch menu launches for summer. Please could you make sure that if you order a school lunch for your child it is something that they will have a good go at eating. Recently there have been lots of letters sent home regarding children saying they don't like certain foods on the menu. It is expected that the children have a good attempt at eating their lunch and pudding every day before going out to play. This is particularly important so that we know the children have enough energy for the afternoon and aren't going hungry.

## PE

Our PE will continue to be on a Thursday and a Friday this half term. One of these will be a session developing basic ball skills and the other will be used to practise skills for sports day in the final half term. 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.

Please encourage your child to read as many words as possible and only sound out if they are unsure as I will be continuing to assess those children who I feel are ready to move onto the next colour band of reading books during this half term and as we move into the final summer term. Remember the benchmarking assessment process involves developing a range of skills not just being able to read the words. The process involves retelling the story without visual clues and retelling in the correct sequence. Children are encouraged to include as much detail as they possibly can in their retell as well as being able to answer

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 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. As we move towards being ready for Year 1 we will be focusing on writing sentences independently with a big focus on using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. If children are eager to write at home please encourage them to remember these 3 important things when writing.

Although most children are able to write all the 26 letters of the alphabet many still struggle with letter formation so please revisit the Read Write Inc rhymes and continue to practice these at home and this will continue to be a focus in school during handwriting sessions.

As part of the achieving an expected judgement in writing within the Early Learning Goals children need to be able to write simple sentences and captions across a range of genres using their phonic knowledge therefore our literacy will include lots of opportunities to develop them as independent writers through a story focus.

### **Topics**

Over this half term our topic is 'Castles' starting with a castle role play area which will evolve into a 'Giants Castle' as we move through the term. We will also be talking about signs of spring and planting our own seeds. 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