

Italy Class Newsletter



Dear Parents

Welcome back to our final half term- it's hard to believe we have nearly completed a full year as Italy Class. 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 more lovely warm weather and hope to spend a lot of more 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

Last half term there were 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 be on a Wednesday and a Friday this half term. Both of these will be developing basic athletic skills and practicing skills for sports day this 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.**

We are very lucky to have the opportunity to work with Newcastle United for an after school club on a Monday. If you haven't already signed up and would like to please see Mrs Gray in the office.

Reading and keywords

We will continue to change 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.

When retelling stories at home please remember to do this without visual clues and focus on retelling it in the correct sequence and to include as much detail as possible. The texts we use in school 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.

During a recent assessment some children were in the habit of sounding out words even though they didn't need to. Please encourage children to read as many words as they can and only sound out if they really need to as this is what they need to be able to do to progress further through the phonics scheme.

Independent writing

As we rapidly move towards being in Year 1 we will be continuing to focus 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 the 3 important things when writing.

Although most children are able to write all the 26 letters of the alphabet many still struggle with using the correct letter formation so please revisit the Read Write Inc, rhymes and continue to practise 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 'The Seaside' starting with a travel play area which will evolve into a 'Seaside and Beach' as we move through the term. We will also be talking about how to stay safe in the sun and the importance of keeping hydrated. However if the children's interests change, we may make slight changes along the way.

It is the plan that we finish our year as Italy Class with a trip to the beach as well as visiting Company B for an Italian treat - further details will follow.

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