

Dear Year 1 and 2 Parents

Thank you to so many of you who came to the Literacy meetings we held last week. 68 out of 120 children were represented which is fantastic. However, I am very conscious that 52 children's parents missed out; so please find attached the handouts that were looked at or given out during the session.

1. **Helpful Hints for supporting your child to read and write better.** 4 pages long but please do read it!!
2. **Sheet showing all the sounds (basic and more complex)** – we recapped how to pronounce the sounds. The children learn to try and get the right spelling matched with the right sound. They might write things like “caym” instead of “came”, until they have learnt the correct spellings for each word. This is a long process which will be repeated every year. Some children find it easy and others hard, just keep practising.
3. **Speed sounds** – 3 pages long. This gives you some examples of words that have the same sound but different ways of spelling it. It also has groups of words with the same spellings to try and help the children learn them.
4. **Dolch 100 common and 2nd 100 common words** - 200 words seems a lot for the children to read and spell (by the end of Year 2) but if you look at the list, many can very easily be sounded out eg, in, it, and, at, him, not, on etc etc. It's the tricky words like “what” which cannot be sounded out that the children just need to learn!
5. On Friday morning, we looked at the **colour of the book bands** so you can see what colour book they need to be reading and understanding to be at age related expectation (ARE).
6. **Examples of reading comprehension questions** that show the six different assessment foci that the teachers are constantly assessing.
7. We looked at a **sample phonics screening test** that is done in the summer term of **Year 1**. The words that have a picture of an alien are nonsense words and the child must sound them out carefully. The other “real” words must be looked at as a whole word to check if any of the letters need to be sounded out together (rather than sounding out each individual letter) eg ch, sh, oi, ee. See link below for a sample phonics screening paper. A letter will go out at the end of Year 1 (and Year 2 if they are repeating it) to tell you how your child got on.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phonics-screening-check-2015-materials>
8. We also looked at **sample reading comprehension papers** that the children will be doing in the summer term in **Year 2**. Sorry we didn't look at the **spelling and grammar** on Thursday night, but we did on Friday morning. The children are having to learn technical grammatical vocabulary – the standard is high! However, it is very important that we do not stress the children out by talking about tests or SATS – it's “special work”!! See link below for example papers. **We do not want you to go through these papers with your children, we just want you to see what we are working on in class throughout this year. Please support this work by completing the homework given out each week.**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/2016-key-stage-1-english-grammar-punctuation-and-spelling-sample-test-materials-mark-scheme-and-test-administration-instructions>

Important messages from the staff

- Please make sure you read with your child (and sign the reading record to show that you have). The ideal is every day for 10 minutes but if you can only manage 3-4 times per week, that is better than nothing.
- Please take time to learn the spellings that are coming home each week for homework. Many children at the moment have not been very good at learning them. If your child gets 0/10 a few weeks in a row, the teachers will come and see you or write you a note to let you know. If they don't come and see you, assume your child is ok. We're going to look at a way of reporting the weekly spelling test result to you – watch this space!
- There is a range of ability in each class and across the two year groups. They are all making progress at their own rate – it is not a race or a competition! Try not to worry about their development and if you are worried, please come and talk to us!

Thanks very much for all your support, Kate Baptiste