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15th April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome the children back to school this week after a nice, but cold, Easter break. The children have arrived back focused and determined to continue with their learning after the disrupted year that we have had.

Before half term, the children in year groups 1,2,3,4,5 and 6 took some tests in Reading, Writing and Maths. The aim of the tests was to find the gaps in the children's knowledge and skills so that we could 'teach them what they don't know". So, over the next few weeks, lessons and work will centre on the concepts that children struggled with. Despite the fact that the children have been out of school so much, they performed admirably in the assessments and we are very proud of how they have returned to school and got on with their learning.

As a school, we need to focus on reading and vocabulary, as this is an area that our children find hard. So reading at home, each night, with your child is vital. I would recommend the children reading to you for 10-15 minutes per night and then you reading a harder book to them for 15 minutes. So, at home, with my youngest (5) I ask him to read his Biff and Chip book, then I read The Gruffalo with him. This means he has a go at saying words and he hears the lovely language of the Gruffalo. Also, as a side benefit, it settles him down before bed!

Over the course of a month or year this makes a massive difference and can take a child from struggling with reading to being confident. Staff are always on hand to recommend books and magazines for you to buy or help your children read. If the children are interested in a topic then reading about it makes it easier. For Maths, nothing beats helping your child with their times tables or number facts. This might be as simple as having a mini quiz on the way to school to keep the tables or numbers fresh in their mind.

Before long, we will plan some dates for a virtual Parent's Evening where you can have a chat with the class teacher and find out how learning is progressing. If you ever have any queries or would like some help, please feel free to give your class teacher a call. After our last parents' evening, we were delighted with the amount of parents asking for advice around working at home with their child and we feel it showed the fantastic support we have from you. Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

R Birtwhistle  
Head Teacher.



'Staff and Governors are committed to keeping children safe'.