

## Year 1 Newsletter 04.03.22

It has been lovely to see all the children back at school and rested after their break. It has already been a busy week in school with lots of exciting activities as we continue to ensure that our children have access to a broad and balanced curriculum throughout the year. We hope our fortnightly newsletters help you to get an insight into some of these activities.



### Curriculum

This half term our overarching Geography question is 'Why don't penguins need to fly?' We learned about the continent of Antarctica and enjoyed listening to a story about a penguin called Pip who got himself lost but discovered that home can be anywhere you feel safe and are loved. We enjoyed looking at some beautiful videos of the landscape of Antarctica and using interesting vocabulary to describe it.



In maths this week we have been learning about measuring length and height using non-standard units such as pasta, counters, cubes, dice and pieces of hexi-flex. We then moved on to measuring using standard units—we learned about metres and centimetres.

We have enjoyed listening to lots of different animal poems in English this week. We have discovered that some poems rhyme, some are written in verses and some even use alliteration. We even had a go at writing our own alliterative animal poem!

We are finding out about the artist Henri Matisse this half term. We looked at lots of examples of his artwork to see what we liked, or did not like, about it. We were inspired to create our very own masterpiece.

### World Book Day

On Wednesday we had a fabulous zoom session with the author Emma Reynolds. She wrote a book called 'Amara and the Bats' which we have been enjoying reading in school recently. During the session Emma read her book and told us many interesting facts about bats. She also asked us questions about our favourite animals.

On Thursday we enjoyed looking at the book 'Not a Stick' by Antoinette Portis. We then spent some time in the garden exploring what else a stick could be, before making our own 'Not a Stick' books in the same style. The children really let their imaginations go wild with ideas and were delighted to be the authors of their very own books! We also looked at some of the quotes in the book 'The Boy, The Mole, The Fox and The Horse' by Charlie Mackesy and discussed what they might mean and how they relate to us and our lives. We will be spending some more time looking at this book during our upcoming Arts Week. We also enjoyed a 'stop everything and read' bell. Every time the bell rang it was time for another story, we managed to fit lots of them in throughout the day.

## Reading

We have now finished assessing all the children's phonics and reading skills and you will find a sticker in their purple book letting you know what their new reading day will be. Not all of the children move to a new level of reading book following each assessment. Sometimes they need a little longer on the same level of book to consolidate their skills, this is completely normal and should not cause you any concern. If you have any questions about your child's reading level please speak to your child's teacher. Sometimes, to make the groupings work across the year group, we need to create a group with children from both classes. As restrictions ease, this is now possible again so you may find that your child is reading in a mixed group and this could be with either Year 1 teacher.

## Pupil Progress Meetings

Thank you all for attending our recent meetings, it was lovely to be able to share your child's work with you and we hope you found these meetings helpful and informative. Please remember that we are available throughout the year to talk about your child's progress with you if you have any queries or concerns.

## Dates for your Diary

22/3/22—Book look. You are invited into school to look at your child's books with them. 1CC 9:10-9:40 1KP 9:50-10:20

17/3/22 (5pm) Y1 Phonics screener parent information session. An opportunity to understand how these assessments are carried out in the summer term.

29/3/22 Year 1 Easter Assembly



Emma Reynolds 🇬🇧 @Emmallustrate · 20h

Had such a good morning virtually visiting Reception and Year 1 at Southridge First School in Whitley Bay! Can't wait to visit Year 2 this afternoon and talk more about bats! 🥰🥰❤️🇬🇧

#WorldBookWeek #WorldBookDay 📖 #worldbookday2022  
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