

## Woodpecker Class Autumn Newsletter 1

Good afternoon, and welcome to our first class newsletter of the academic year.



The children have made a fantastic start. They are working hard, settling into their routines and focussing well during lessons. It has been lovely to see them enjoying their learning, getting to grips with the curriculum and showing such a positive attitude.

### Homework

Homework has now started, and the first set has been sent home. Please support your child with completing it and ensure that it is returned each Wednesday. Regular practice will help your child to build confidence and reinforce the learning they have been doing in class. Please note that the maths 'Key Instant Recall Facts' are also stuck in the front of the children's books.

### Spellings

Spellings will be sent home every Friday. The children will be tested on these the following week, so please spend a little time practising the words together at home. Thank you for your support.

### Reading

The children will be given a 'reading star' on a Thursday if they have read twice to an adult at home and completed their comprehension homework. Although the children are older now, it is still very important that they continue to read aloud as much as possible. Reading aloud supports fluency, expression and understanding, so please encourage your child to make it part of their regular home routine. Sharing a book together can be a lovely way to enjoy reading at home.

Every half term we send home a 'targeted reading skill' for each year group, these are stuck into the front of your child's homework book. This half term the focus is on fluency and in particular, we'd like each of the year groups to focus on the following during the next two weeks-

#### Parent Read-Aloud

Read aloud consistently every night. When reading aloud, encourage your child to focus on expression – how the character talks and feels. When you model making meaning while reading, your child will pick up on it for their own reading.

Our first class novel of the year is 'Trash' and we now have the routine of reading together for 20 minutes at the end of the day. The novel is set in a non-decript South American country and it follows the lives of three dumpsite boys.

*'Raphael is a dumpsite boy. He spends his days wading through mountains of steaming trash, sifting it, sorting it, breathing it, sleeping on it. Then one unlucky-lucky day, the world turns upside down. A small leather bag falls into his hands. It's a bag of clues. It's a bag of hope. It's a bag that will change everything.'*

*Soon he and his friends are running for their lives. Hounded by the police, it takes all their quick-thinking and fast-talking to stay ahead. As the net tightens, they uncover a dead man's mission to put right a terrible wrong. And it's three street-boys against the world.'*



Please do note that our next Family Friday and Learning Together is on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mrs Ship