

# ENGAINES PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

*St Osyth Road East  
Little Clacton  
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*Headteacher: Mrs Cherry Curle*

Autumn Term 2019/2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back after the summer break and we trust you all had a good holiday. We would like to inform you what will be happening in Years 1 and 2 this term. It promises to be another busy and exciting time with a very packed curriculum and lots of fun activities and learning taking place. The Key Stage One team consists of Mrs. Elmer, Mrs. Nunn and Mrs. Last. The children will also be supported by our teaching assistants-Mrs. Edgar, Mrs Steele, Mrs. Sharpe and Mrs. Cantrell.

The topic this term will be 'The Weather' and will link in with our Literacy texts. In Key Stage One, we will be focusing on the work of Nick Butterworth. Towards the end of the term, we will be learning about Guy Fawkes and then moving onto Christmas!

In Literacy, we will be looking at many types of texts which will include work on stories, instruction writing, fact files, poems and character descriptions. We will continue to use the 'Talk for Writing' approach, which means we will share texts with the children, learn the texts through mapping and gesture, rewrite the texts and create our own adaptations of the texts. Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (GPS) is an essential element of Literacy and regular sessions of GPS will take place. The Letters and Sounds programme for learning Phonics, which began in the Foundation Class, will continue in Year 1 for all of the children. Some children in Year 2 will require further support with learning how to read phonetically and those children will continue learning Phonics through the Letters and Sounds programme. The majority of children in Year 2 will continue to develop their spelling skills through participation in the 'Engaines Spelling Strategy' lessons. Early morning activities involving reading, spelling and handwriting will take place every morning so that the children become familiar with the 'sight words' and 'common exception words' from The National Curriculum. Therefore, it is crucial that the children arrive as close to 8.45 as possible so as not to miss out on this very important start to the day.

The 'Accelerated Reader' programme will continue for our Year 2 children. The children are in the process of being assessed and, once these assessments are complete, the children will be able to choose books based on their test scores. After each book has been read, reread and questions have been discussed with parents, an online comprehension quiz will be completed in school and then the children will be able to choose a new book. When children achieve

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three scores of 100%, in a row, then they will be able to choose a book from the next level up. Please remember to date and sign the reading record whenever you hear your child read or when you share a bedtime story with them. We expect this to be happening daily.

Our Year 1 children do not follow the 'Accelerated Reading' programme. Our Year 1 children will be able to access books from our colour-coded collection of books and will need to read their book at home before it can be changed for a new one. Please be aware that children will choose their own books and we do try to encourage them to look inside the book to see if it is one they would like to read. Occasionally your child will choose a book they have read before. This provides a good opportunity for book review and question time. Year 1 children will have two occasions per week when they can change their reading books. Book changing usually takes place on Mondays and Fridays. If your child has read their book numerous times and it is not a book changing day then please read a book or comic from home with them. Please also remember that if your child is not in the mood to read to you then it is a good idea to take the opportunity to read them a bedtime story and note this down in their reading record.

We will do our very best to ensure that your child has book sharing time with either their class teacher or teaching assistant on a regular basis. Please also be advised that there are plenty of other reading opportunities built into the school day, which may involve group or whole class work.

With regards to our reading incentive scheme, we will have a 'Reader of the Week'. The children will be chosen based on effort, attainment and enthusiasm for reading. Once every term, two children from each class will be chosen as 'Reading Champions' where they will receive a book of their choice during a special reading assembly.

In Numeracy we shall work on the four operations of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division as well as fractions, measures and problem solving. We expect the children to work on number bonds and times tables as part of their homework and appreciate your support with this. Certificates will be handed out for knowing number bond facts and also times tables facts. In addition to our daily Numeracy lessons, we will also have a shorter session entitled 'Maths Meeting'.

The children will take part in a P.E. session, which will be on Tuesday. (During our Forest School session on a Friday afternoon, children will also participate in physical activities but these will not require a P.E kit.) Please ensure that a named P.E kit is kept in school every

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day. This will consist of blue shorts and a white t-shirt. Trainers are advised for outdoor P.E sessions and plimsolls for indoor P.E sessions. This ensures that if we have the opportunity to deliver extra activities then your child will not miss out. As the weather gets colder, it would be advisable to provide a warm tracksuit of any colour. Please make sure that all items are named. Earrings must not be worn for P.E and this is in line with the Essex policy.

Our homework in Key Stage One is topic based. A new homework sheet will be sent out for this term and the children can start working on one or a few of the activities (as many as they would like to) as soon as they are ready to do so. The children can bring in their homework to share with the class and certificates will be handed out for completed homework. Children will then be able to share their homework with the rest of KS1 during our homework sharing sessions at the end of the half term. Please can all homework for this term be in by 21st October.

With regards to rewards, the children will be awarded team points. We will also continue to hand out stickers to acknowledge good behaviour and wonderful work.

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you that we will be holding Parents Evenings on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September and Tuesday 1st October which will run from 13:30 until 17:30.

We look forward to an exciting term.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs. Elmer, Mrs. Nunn and Mrs. Last

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