

Reading Meeting for Reception / Alnwick Castle Class

Thank you for all your support in helping the children to settle and adjust to school life. They have been doing really well; I was very proud of how sensible they were bringing in their 'show and tell' items and sharing them with the class. A great start for their first few weeks and I know we will have lots of fun in the year ahead.

As previously mentioned their current topic is 'All About Me' so now the children have begun to settle, we will continue this in more varied and detailed ways but today Monday (26th September) I will also be starting their next learning steps in literacy. We will begin a literacy programme called 'Read, Write, Inc.' which is a programme that establishes skills in reading that then lead to writing development. If you are interested there is information about the programme at:

<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/resources/parent-tutorial-1-understanding-read-write-inc-phonics/>.

I appreciate that some children have previously covered sounds in their pre-school settings but it is important that we check these building blocks are securely in place so they do not develop any issues in the future. Equally, if this is completely new to them, I will be aware of those individuals and it is my job to support them. Therefore, whatever background they have had, please don't worry as we aim to teach them to succeed (not to find it difficult) so they have confidence with their learning so we have happy children that are eager to learn!

We will start by introducing a sound a day and I will send home a photocopy sheet so you can see what they have learnt that day. This is not a compulsory activity but one that they may benefit from, it is meant to be completely fun so as to develop the children's enthusiasm and an opportunity for the children to gain confidence and 'show off' to you what they have learnt that day. Each sound has a little saying and picture to go with it. The key thing is to make the sound not the letter name e.g. today's letter is 'm' so we say 'mmm' not 'em', it has the saying 'Maisie mountain mountain', this saying also helps them to remember how to write the sound and there is a space on the sheet for them to do this.

This link may help you with the pronunciation of the letters:

<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/resources/read-write-inc-fresh-start-sound-pronunciation-guide/>

And advice on how you might like to support your child with their sounds:

<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/resources/parent-tutorial-teaching-set-1-sound/>

Don't worry if you don't have time each evening as every few letters we will take a break from them to revise and recap. Also, you may even prefer to make it much more game and fun than sitting and doing a sheet so you could practise the letters by going on a letter hunt around the house to see how many they can spot or they could practise writing them in the sand.

Please could you keep their 'Fred Frog Folders' in their book bags and each morning when they sign in could you please help them to put it in their little pigeon hole - I will be there to show you where and soon they will be able to do it all by themselves!!

I will be taking a reading meeting on Monday 3rd October time tbc to go through the programme in more detail, explain how the school reading books will work and to see how you have found the first week of sounds. However, the children will continue to have an opportunity to visit the library on Fridays to pick a book of their choice. Again, I know there is lots to take on so please do not hesitate to contact me or to arrange a convenient time to discuss matters further. But in the mean time, happy sounds....

Mrs Johnson