



Dear Parents/Carers,

I am so pleased to welcome the new year ones and year twos into Cedar Class. The following information will help you to become familiar with our routines and expectations.

Home learning

Reading

Please read with your child at least 5 times a week. In year one, the children will be reading the Read Write Inc books (RWI). Your child will be assessed at the beginning of the year, to see which phonics colour band they will be reading and which phonics group they will be joining. This is then reassessed every half term. However, if your child is making great progress within the half term they can also be moved up.

Every Monday, your child will be given a new RWI book in their phonics sessions. They will be introduced to the book in the session and they will be taught the green words (words that can be blended) and red words (words to know by sight) that are within the book. At the end of the week, this book will be sent home and must be read at least 5 times the following week – re-reading books is essential to build confidence and fluency (see RWI attached FAQ page for more info). This doesn't mean that you can't share other books at home to read for pleasure, this is something we actually encourage. The RWI book is intended to teach your child to read and only includes the phonics sounds that they have been taught. It is at the right level and will help them to make progress with their reading skills. Having a book that they can decode will help them to view themselves as being a good reader. When a book is beyond a child's ability, they can lose confidence and regard themselves as not being able to read.

If your child finds it tricky to read to you, please read to them and share books as much as possible. Encourage them say any letter sounds that they know; point out a word and ask them to see if they can spot it further in the book; talk about what is happening in the book, make predictions about what might happen next and get them to answer simple questions about what has just been read eg how the characters might be feeling.

Please record any reading that you do with your child in their reading journal by writing the date, signing your name and recording the book that has been read. If your child finds a word tricky, you could record this in the reading journal to let me know. Reading records will be checked on Friday afternoon. Your child will also be encouraged to bring a book home from our reading corner, to share with you. It is important to note that this book is not at your child's reading level, and you should not expect them to read it to you. This book is for you to read to them, but if they recognise some of the words, then you can encourage them to read these words. For each read at home, your child will receive a raffle ticket which will go into a class jar. Every half term, one ticket will be pulled out of the jar and the winner will receive a £10 gift voucher to spend on books at Liznojan book shop in Tiverton. The more you read at home, the more chance your child has of winning!

When your child has moved through all of the RWI levels, they will complete an Accelerated Reader assessment. This will show us what level book they will be able to read (this is called their ZPD). When they are reading ZPD levelled books, you don't have to record how many times your child reads in a reading record. However, they still have to read at least 5 times a week. After reading a book, they will complete a quiz, which will check they have understood what they have read – we aim for 85% accuracy and children not obtaining this may be moved to a lower ZPD.

Every time your child passes a quiz, they will be given a raffle ticket to put into the class jar. It is really important for them to understand what they have read as now the focus is on reading comprehension. This might mean they have to re-read part or all of the book again. You can help your child by asking them questions about what they have read so that they gain a deeper understanding of the text.

Spelling

Your child will be tested on the rainbow spelling sheets to see which spellings they need to practise at home. The highlighted spellings are the ones which they need to learn and should be practised at least 5 times a week. For different ways to practise spelling, see the attached sheet or visit our school [website](#) and look of Sampford Spelling Strategies. Children can also logon to [Spelling Shed](#) – once logged in select the **more lists**, click the **detail** button of the word list you want to practise eg White A, then press the green **play** arrow on the top right of the screen, now select the **play** button before selecting easy, medium, hard or extreme. When your child feels confident to be tested on their spellings, they can write their name on the 'I am ready to be tested' sheet in the classroom.

Maths

Your child will need to practise number fluency at least 5 times a week. Talk to your child about the numbers they see and how maths is used all around us. Play counting games on the way to school or on car journeys. Below are some more suggestions of how you can support your child's mathematical understanding.

- Count to and across 100, forward and backwards from any given number
- Encourage your child to read and write numbers
- Learn number bonds to 10 eg 1 + 9, 2 + 8 etc. You could call out a number and your child has to say the number that goes with it to make 10.
- Encourage mathematical language eg heavier/lighter; full/empty; half/quarter; quicker/slower; earlier/later
- Practise counting in multiples of 2s, 5s, 10s (count in 3's for a challenge or count forwards and backwards from any number using these multiples)
- Name coins and notes. What can you buy with £1? How much money do we have all together?
- Practise adding and subtracting numbers. Do the numbers get smaller or bigger?
- Go on a shape hunt to spot different 2D and 3D shapes
- Login to <https://ttrockstars.com/> or <https://play.numbots.com/#/intro> to practise key number facts.

P.E

Cedar Class have P.E on a Monday. Children must come into school wearing their P.E kit on this day. The PE kit list is:

- Black or blue Shorts
- A royal blue round neck T-shirt
- Trainers
- Tracksuits for the colder months if required

In Cedar class, we encourage children not to bring in toys or other things from home. This avoids children losing their belongings. We also strongly encourage bringing a bag into school every day so that they can put their books and belongings safely inside.

Please ensure your child has healthy snacks and lunches - crisps and sweets are not allowed at break time. Your child also needs to bring a named water bottle each day which can be re-filled if required. We ask that squash and juice drinks are not brought into the classroom and that a separate bottle is brought in to have with their lunch if required. Spillages in class of squash cause stains/stickiness and also encourage ants. Squash and juice drinks, even sugar free ones, can be very acidic and are not good for children's teeth if they are regularly sipping them.

At the start of every half-term, the Cedar page on our school website will update with a few suggestions of what you can do at home to enrich the learning they have been doing in school. Please check and have a go at these activities!

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this information; please email the school office if you have any questions, which will then be passed to me.

Kind regards,

Miss Keatley