

FURZEHAM PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a very exciting year!

As many of you know the National Curriculum for all schools has been revised and we have implemented some changes last year in Maths. We are also making changes this year in English to meet the needs of the new legislation and of course tailoring it to the needs of our children here at Furzeham Primary School.

We are making three significant changes in Reading, Spelling and Handwriting.

Reading

Reading is really at the heart of education and underpins every subject as well as providing the life- long skills and pleasure in reading. With our new Accelerated Reader program each pupil starts off by taking a quiz on the computer, led by the teacher, to ascertain which book will be appropriate for them. Once your child has finished the book they can quiz themselves on the computer at school before they move on to the next book, this checks their comprehension. In order for your child to progress quickly, we are giving a dedicated time in class every day for your child to read uninterrupted and we of course ask that they can read at home for at least ten minutes each evening (twenty minutes if they are in Year 5 or 6.) This will be rewarded with certificates and praise in school. If your child is in Key Stage One then they will remain on the colour banded book scheme.

Spellings

Your child will be given a National Curriculum statutory spelling list at the beginning of this term. We please ask you to help your child understand, read and spell these words at home over the course of the term and they will be tested at the end of each term throughout the year. Your child will **not** have weekly spelling lists, as studies suggest that children only learn the spellings for a test in the short term and they do not stay in the long term memory. Instead we have invested in a new spelling program called "No Nonsense Spelling". It's a fantastic resource built on letter patterns, looking at where words come from and how we can learn certain sounds and spelling arrangements. Every other week, if your child is in year 2 or upwards-they will come home with a spelling investigation to complete for homework. All our children from year 2 upwards will be embarking on this new scheme with year 1 and 2 still focusing on phonics as well. Reception and Year 1 will continue to look at letters and sounds.

Handwriting

In Year 1, the teachers will be helping your child to hold a pencil correctly and to clearly form each of the letters. All classes will be focusing on the correct formation of letters throughout their daily work. A copy of the letter formation scheme is attached.

As a school, we are committed to continue to provide an excellent level of education and we feel adding in these new elements will only enrich our present curriculum and help your child to really progress. If you have any queries regarding any of the new changes or would like to look at the accelerated reader program or the new spelling program we will be running an information session during the parent's consultation evenings. (Dates of the parent's consultation evenings to follow).

Yours sincerely

Claire Thompson

Deputy Head Teacher

Attachment



a b c d e

f g h i j k

l m n o p

q r s t u

v w x y z