

Dear Parents,

Our topic this term is called 'Home and Away'. This half term we will be focussing on the 'Home' part of the topic which involves learning about Horsley and the local area. The children will be painting a picture of their own house based on a photograph. Please could your child bring in a named photograph of their house by Friday 3rd May.

Below is an outline of the key curriculum areas we will be covering so that you can support your child's learning at home. Please continue to read with your child for ten minutes every day as well as practising their key words and phonic sounds. They should also be able to read and spell the days of the week and numbers to twenty so please work on this too.

We are also sending home another copy of the phonics grid which covers all the phonemes (sounds) that the children should know. Please regularly practise all these sounds and read and write words which contain them. Remember, there could be different spellings for the same sound e.g. long a as in cake, wait, may. Also, there may be more than one way of saying a grapheme (letters that make up a sound) e.g. ear as in hear and ear as in bear. Please ask if you would like further clarification. Don't forget to practise reading real and alien words. There are lots of online activities and games.

As before, the children's immediate environment is immensely useful for extending what we do at school. Use 'real life' opportunities at home to reinforce the work we do in maths such as using money, weighing ingredients and telling the time. If you need another number line or hundred square to practise number skills please ask. Encourage your child to log on to Mathletics if they do not regularly do so already - it can boost their confidence and their mental maths skills.

Many thanks for your support,

The Year 1 Team

<i>Subject</i>	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Suggestions of how to support at home</b>	<b>Websites and other resources</b>
<i>English</i>	<b>Reading</b>	Ask your child regularly about their reading - discuss book choices, character preferences. Continue to discuss what has happened so far and what might happen next. Discuss characters and what they are like etc. Continue to use the pictures to discuss what is happening in a story and consider reading something different, including non-fiction and poetry. Please continue to read with your child every day.	Discuss what happens in a TV programme/film. Predict the ending and suggest alternative endings.
	<b>Poetry</b>	We will be looking at playground rhymes and poems. Share playground rhymes your child and read poems together. Compare poems and look out for rhyming words.	Poetry books
	<b>Narrative</b>	We will be looking at stories with familiar settings and predictable patterns this half term. Enjoy some traditional tales and talk about them together. Consider where the story is set e.g. a castle, a forest, a cottage. What happens in the story? How does the story end? Consider comparing some different stories and thinking about characters.	Traditional stories and fairy tales.
	<b>Information texts and writing recounts</b>	Look at some brochures that give information about different places or things. For example we will be looking at The Raleigh School prospectus giving lots of information about our school. Are there other places in Horsley that produce an information leaflet? We will be writing non-fiction recounts about our Horsley trip so ask your child to recall things that they have done in order and practise writing diary entries.	Library books, information leaflets and tourist attraction brochures.
<i>Letters and Sounds</i>	<b>Phonics</b>	Encourage your child to identify all the sounds they can hear in a word. How many different sounds can they hear? Keep practising all the sounds the children have learned in Letters and Sounds (see attached phonics grid). Focus on one sound at a time, reading and writing down words which contain this sound. Remember, there may be more than one way of spelling the same sound. Practise reading real and alien words containing these sounds.	Phonics grid Phonics Play and other websites and games involving real and alien words.
<i>Tricky words</i>	<b>Key words/ Tricky words</b>	Continue to concentrate on 5 key words at a time. Write each word on a different card/ piece of paper for your child to read, then muddle them up and keep practising them. Play games e.g. point to the word or write the word in the quickest time. Look out for these words when you are reading together. Write the words down and use them in sentences too (don't forget to use capital letters and full stops!).	Magnetic letters, flashcards, Y1 high frequency words and bookmarks.
<i>Science</i>	<b>Plants</b>	Look in your garden or the local countryside - can your child name the plants, including trees. Pretend to be explorers discovering new plants and wildlife. Sow some seeds and observe the growth of the plants.	Gardening, plants, seeds, magnifying glass, plant books.
	<b>Seasons</b>	Notice the changes in the weather and in the garden as we move from spring to summer. Observe changes in day length, the position of the sun in the sky and shadow formation. Learn the names and characteristics of the different seasons.	BBC weather, calendars, the natural world.

<b>Maths</b>	<b>Addition and subtraction</b>	Practise carefully counting along a number line and a hundred square to add and subtract numbers. Give your child word problems to solve eg If I have 4 grapes and you have 3 grapes, how many are there altogether?	Mathletics <a href="http://www.ictgames.com">www.ictgames.com</a> and <a href="http://www.topmarks.co.uk">www.topmarks.co.uk</a> These have good games and resources for counting, number recognition, addition, subtraction etc.  Small objects for counting, adding, subtracting and grouping  Hundred square and number line  Numicon  Containers, measuring jugs  Calendar, clock
	<b>Numbers as words</b>	Learn to read and write numbers up to twenty in words.	
	<b>Place value of 2-digit numbers (tens and ones/units)</b>	Choose a two digit number on a hundred square and think about the number in tens and ones. How many lots of ten are in that number? How many are left over? Use objects such as buttons, Lego, beads to help you. Close your eyes and point to a number on a hundred square. Can you say the ten and the ones in that number? Write number sentences to show tens and ones e.g. $27 = 20 + 7$	
	<b>Multiplying and Dividing</b>	Keep practising counting in twos, fives and tens. Group small objects into equal sets and count them. Empty a piggy bank and count all the 2p, 5p and 10p coins. Write down the number sequences on individual pieces of card. Turn the cards over and shuffle them. Can they turn the cards over one at a time and lay them out in the right order? Before they complete the challenge, can they work out which numbers are missing from the sequence?	
	<b>Fractions - quarters</b>	Use everyday situations to help your child understand fractions and find $\frac{1}{4}$ of a number e.g. count out 4, 8, 12, 16 or 20 grapes and find $\frac{1}{4}$ by sharing them equally between four bowls; cut an apple or pizza into quarters, remembering that each of the four parts must be exactly the same size.	
	<b>Position of numbers on a hundred square</b>	Use numbered board games e.g. 'Snakes and Ladders' to compare the position of 2 counters. How much are you winning by? Encourage children to identify numbers and count accurately on a number line and hundred square (particularly when crossing a multiple of 10 on a hundred square). Use chalk to draw large scale number lines outside.	
	<b>Capacity</b>	Fill different shaped containers with water or dry sand and compare their capacity using language such as full, empty, more than, less than. Order two or three containers according to capacity (how much they hold when full). Measure liquids using ml and litres when cooking.	
	<b>Time</b>	Practise telling the time to the hour and half-hour. Compare units of time e.g. seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks and months. Measure the passing of time in minutes and hours. Ask questions about time such as how many days before you go on holiday? How many minutes long is your favourite program? Learn to spell the days of the week.	
<b>Topic</b>	<b>Home and Away (Home focus this half term)</b>	We are looking at Horsley and finding out about our local area. Go for a walk or bike ride around the village. What facilities are there? Who works in Horsley? What types of shops and other buildings are there? Look at photographs of Horsley in the past and see how much has changed. If you know people who have lived in Horsley for many years, ask them about what has changed.	Look in the library for books about the history of Horsley.
	<b>Home address</b>	Please can your child learn their home address. They could write a letter to themselves or their family and post it to their home!	Letter or postcard