**ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE CHURCH of ENGLAND**

**(VA) FIRST SCHOOL**

**25th February 2019**

Year 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope everyone has had a lovely break and enjoyed the mild weather. I t was lovely to spend time outdoors in the sunshine!

This half term we will be exploring the topic of ‘Pirates’. This will begin with a visit from Captain Raggy Beard on Tuesday 26th February. This will involve lots of fun activities such as, walking the plank and learning a sea shanty. Back in the classroom we will develop our map skills in order to learn about the seas and continents which pirates may have explored. We will also look at the work of the artist Joseph Turner before creating our own seascapes.

Monday 25th February marks the start of World Book Week and our whole school trip to Seven Stories. We will spend time in class throughout the week sharing our favourite stories with each other and discussing why we enjoy them so much.

In Year 1, reading books will, again, usually be changed on a Tuesday morning, when children will be given two books to read during the following week. We will occasionally keep book bags overnight if we have not had time to change books during the school day. The National Curriculum states that children should read and re-read texts to develop their fluency and pace; these are skills which are hard to establish in a first read through, so we would ask that children read both books at least twice before the following Tuesday. There is now a questioning prompt in the front of your child’s reading record. This is a useful resource to build children’s inference skills. Please remember to write a short note in your child’s Reading Record book each time you listen to your child read, for each book.  Please could you ensure book bags are brought to school everyday, checked for letters every night and old letters removed.

PE will usually be taught on a Tuesday and Thursday. PE kits should be left in school (on cloakroom pegs) and should contain a pair of named trainers for outdoor PE lessons. It would be very helpful if any child with long hair could have their hair tied up in a ponytail on this day too.

Homework will continue to be sent out on a Thursday, to be returned the following Tuesday. This will be either one page of English or Phonics, one page of math’s and spelling’s linked to the sound we have been learning in class. Children will continue to receive some of the real and “alien” words alongside their reading books. It would be very helpful if you could practice these alongside their reading, in preparation for the Year 1 Phonics Screening in June.

I am very grateful for the parents who already volunteering in our classroom. If any other parents feel they can donate any (regular) spare time in an afternoon, and are interested in helping out, please speak to myself or Mrs McCloud.

Children in Y1 will continue to be dismissed from the classroom door which enters the yard.  If you have any questions, please do pop in to see me at the end of the school day or if you would prefer to contact me by email, the address is: katie.wilkinson@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk.

I look forward to the next half and all the exciting things we are going to learn about in year 1!

Yours sincerely

Miss Wilkinson