












Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! Spring is in reach! Daffodils are beginning to stick their heads out of the soil and the sun is creeping out from behind those clouds. We hope the children have had a lovely break and rested their busy bodies and brains! We are looking forward to diving into some curious learning this term! Maps are going to be a big focus. Please do get those Sat Navs/Google Maps on the go in the car and walking around. Have a look on the bottom of this newsletter for some fun ideas to get playing with maps at home!

Please see relevant information below regarding the upcoming term.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Learning Support Worker (LSW)
Orangutan Class	Chloe 	Chloe 	Chloe 	Hannah AM  Hannah PM 	Chloe 	

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Learning Support Worker (LSW)
Giraffe Class	Lee	Lee	Lee	Lee AM Silvia PM 	Lee	

Dates for your diary:

Book Fair	Tuesday 25 th February 3:30-4:15 Thursday 27 th February 3:30-4:15
World Book Day	Thursday 6 th March Come dressed as your favourite book character!
Parents/Carers Evening (the school will send a notification to you when booking is open on Arbor)	Monday 31 st March Wednesday 2 nd April

Reading Books

Every Friday, your child's phonics book will be changed. Please continue to record your reading sessions in their reading record.

In class, children participate in guided reading lessons in small groups and have multiple opportunities to read with adults throughout the week. Additionally, we will be offering children the chance to bring home a *Reading for Pleasure* book.

We kindly ask that you take care of these books and return them, along with the phonics book, each Friday for a new selection.

Phonics books: This book will be carefully selected to align with your child's phonic knowledge. They will have a week to immerse themselves in the text, secure their phonics skills, enhance fluency, grasp the narrative, and expand their vocabulary. Follow this link to learn more about reading at home. [Phonics - Oxford Owl for Home](#)

Reading for Pleasure books: These books are best enjoyed alongside an adult or sibling. Children flourish when engaged in shared reading experiences with adults or older siblings, as they delve into captivating stories and uncover new vocabulary. Additionally, these interactions enable them to recognise familiar sounds and conquer challenging words. Exposing your child to the joy of reading through familial bonding moments fosters a genuine passion for literature.

Home time

Please **avoid coming into the classrooms at the end of the day** as if there are lots of adults around the doorway/classroom it can become tricky to know the whereabouts of the children. We want to keep everyone safe at all times right until they are in the safe hands of their adult.

General information:



Show and tell – as we begin a steady transition into Year 2, show and tell will now be on a **Thursday afternoon only**. This means that if the children bring something in on any other of those days, we will give it back to you at the classroom door or keep it safe in the cupboard until the end of the day. The children can of course share their items as normal until we have shared this information with them.



A reminder that children should only be eating fruit or vegetable/healthy snacks at snack time. Croissants, chocolate, and crisps are not a healthy snack and should be saved for afterschool or lunchtime. We have plenty of fruit at school that we offer the children every day.

Communication:

- Class Dojo is the easiest way to contact us, and we can call you back if you send a message. We aim to reply to Class Dojo messages within 2 working days.
- Please don't use Dojo for emergency messages as we cannot check them while teaching or in meetings. Continue to call the office for emergency messages.
- A member of the Year 1 team will be available at the class door at 3.25pm every day. We are happy to catch up for an informal chat then and can arrange a meeting for longer conversations – we will aim to arrange meetings within a week.
- The school website will be updated termly to share topic maps, spelling lists and any additional resources that can support learning at home.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions.

Kind Regards,

Chloe and Lee



1. What is a Map?

- Ask your child what they think a map is and why we use them.
- Explain that maps help us find places and show us where things are.

2. Different Types of Maps

- Talk about different kinds of maps, such as:
 - **Street maps** (to find places in a town)
 - **Treasure maps** (to make it fun!)
 - **Globe and world maps** (to show countries and oceans)

3. Features on a Map

- Teach them about **symbols** (like a tree for a park or a house for buildings).
- Show them how roads, rivers, and buildings are drawn on a map.
- Introduce the concept of a **key/legend** and how it helps us understand maps.

4. Directions and Compass Points

- Play games using **left, right, forward, and backward**.
- Introduce simple compass directions: **North, South, East, and West** (maybe using "Never Eat Soggy Waffles" as a memory trick).

5. Making Their Own Maps

- Encourage your child to draw a simple map of their bedroom, house, or school route.
- Let them hide a toy and create a treasure map for you to find it!

6. Real-Life Maps

- Show them a map on your phone or a paper map and find familiar places.
- Next time you go for a walk, ask them to notice landmarks and directions.