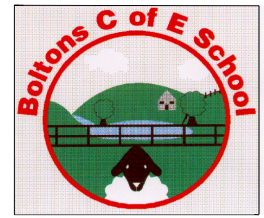


# BOLTONS

## *Church of England Primary School*



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**Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024**

**Bolton Low Houses**  
**Wigton, Cumbria**  
**CA7 8PA**

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year, making wonderful memories with your families. Firstly, I would like to say thank you for the lovely cards and gifts I received at Christmas, they are very much appreciated. This year, our teaching and learning will be supported by Mrs Gemmell. Here is a letter explaining general information about homework, spellings, reading, phonics and PE lessons. For the other subjects, I have emailed a Spring term curriculum overview to inform you of the things I will be teaching in all the subject areas.

### Phonics and Reading

This term, we will continue to work on Level 5/Phase 5 phonics for the remainder of the school year. Your child will receive their updated phonics books weekly. We will listen to the children read, as often as possible and will leave comments in their reading records. However, it is important that you listen to your child read as often as possible too, as this will enable them to progress at a faster rate. When you listen to your child read, it is important that you discuss the story and ask questions about the text they are reading (the reading books have questions at the end of the book, which you can use), because their understanding of the book is as equally important as being able to read mechanically. Please record when you listened to your child read in their reading record book, along with a short comment saying how they did or any struggles they faced. It is also important that they get the opportunity to reread their reading books, as this also helps to build up word fluency and understanding of the text. We will also be continuing our **reading challenge** so please keep reading at least 4 times a week for a golden ticket!

### PE

**PE will be taught on Tuesday and Thursday.** PE kits should be brought to school on a Monday and will be left in school until Friday. PE kits should include a tracksuit top or jumper and tracksuit bottoms to ensure they are dressed for all weathers and trainers. It is the responsibility of the child to remove all their jewellery; therefore I advise that earrings are removed before attending school in the morning. If they choose to wear them to school, they must be able to take them out themselves and have a container to keep them safe in their tray, as I will not be allowed to keep hold of them.

### Homework and Spellings

Homework and spellings will continue to be set each Friday and sent home in their homework books. Homework is to be completed and handed in by the following Wednesday to be marked and set again. The children are encouraged to keep a copy of their spellings when they get home, so they can continue to practise, and they will be tested on these spellings every Friday. It is really important that the children practise their spellings regularly throughout the week to ensure they are fully embedded, so that they will apply them to their writing.

### Tapestry

We continue to use Tapestry in Key Stage 1 as it is always lovely to see what your child gets up to weekly. Tapestry in Year 1 will allow me to photograph any "WOW" moments, group work and any work your child feels proud of. It will also continue to be a communication platform, so if you have any questions or concerns you can send them directly to me. If your child would also like to share any images from home then please do not hesitate to send them in.

### Online Safety

The internet is a tremendous resource for learning, leisure and interacting with other people, but there are potential risks that we all need to be aware of, to ensure we can help children and young people stay safe online. Therefore, we have regular online safety sessions to help equip them with the tools and skills they need to stay safe as they become more active online. Within school, we have strong firewalls to ensure children only have access to sites and programs that are age appropriate, and we all follow National online safety guidelines. Through conversations at school, we know many children already have parental controls on devices they use at home, but we encourage you to continue conversations about online safety at home too, so they know who to speak to if they come across something that worries them or makes them feel uncomfortable online. If you would like support adding parental locks please ask or use the following website for further support and advice.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/Parental-controls/>

If you have any questions about any areas of the curriculum or general enquiries, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me via the school office or on Tapestry.

Many Thanks  
Kirsty Bell