

PINES CLASS NEWSLETTER

SUMMER TERM 2019



Dear Parents / Guardians,

Hope you had a good Easter break. This letter will outline the work we are doing in our class this term.

Our theme for this term is *Adventures*. Last year we read *The Enchanted Wood* as the class novel. This was so popular with the children that we are going to revisit the story with the second book *The Magic Faraway Tree*. We will be using the story as a basis for other areas of learning such as role play, story writing and model making. Our History theme is *The Railway King* – we will be learning about the life of George Hudson, a prominent York figure who had a significant impact on the city. Following on from this I will be organising a trip to the Railway Museum for later in the term.

Reading

- Read a few pages of their reading book each night;
- Talk about books – ask the children to tell you who their favourite character is and why;
- Reception children: practice finding words where two letters make one sound (qu, ch, sh, th, ng, ai, ee and oa). Practise making the sound – take note of how the tongue makes the sound ‘th’ and iterate that this is not the same as ‘f’.
- Year 1: Draw your child’s attention to the fact that sounds can be represented by different letter combinations (eg “ay” sound can be a, a_e, ai, ay and ey). Look for examples of these in their reading.

Writing

- Forming all the letters of the alphabet correctly (Year 1 children should be forming all these correctly and beginning to now form with lead-ins, Reception children need to be able to form most letters correctly).
- Practise their spellings by completing their homework sheet; make sure each letter is formed correctly, letters are consistent in size and pencil is held correctly.
- Make sure that children recognise the capital version of lower case letters and always use one at the start of any writing, ending with a full stop and remembering finger spaces.
- Please check and correct your child’s pen grip if you see that they are not using ‘Froggy’ fingers!

Maths

- Reception children should practise counting in 10s to 100, forwards and backwards. They should commit their number bonds to memory such as $3 + 2 = 5$, $2 + 4 = 6$ etc.
- Year 1 children should practise being able to identify a half or a quarter of small number (twelve or less). They should commit number bonds to 20 to memory such as $12 + 8 = 20$, $17 + 3 = 20$. They should be able to know the names of 3d shapes (cone, cube, cuboid, sphere, cylinder) and be able to recognise some of their properties eg edges and faces.

Science

- Grow things at home from seed with your child. Talk to them about how plants need water, nutrients, light and space in order to grow successfully;
- Talk to your child about some common animals. Discuss with them whether these animals are carnivores (meat eaters), (herbivores (plant eaters) or omnivores (eat both plants and meat);
- Talk with your child about the changing seasons. Make them aware of the increasing hours of light and the warmer temperatures. Help them to understand which season will follow summer and what will happen to the light and temperature once summer ends..

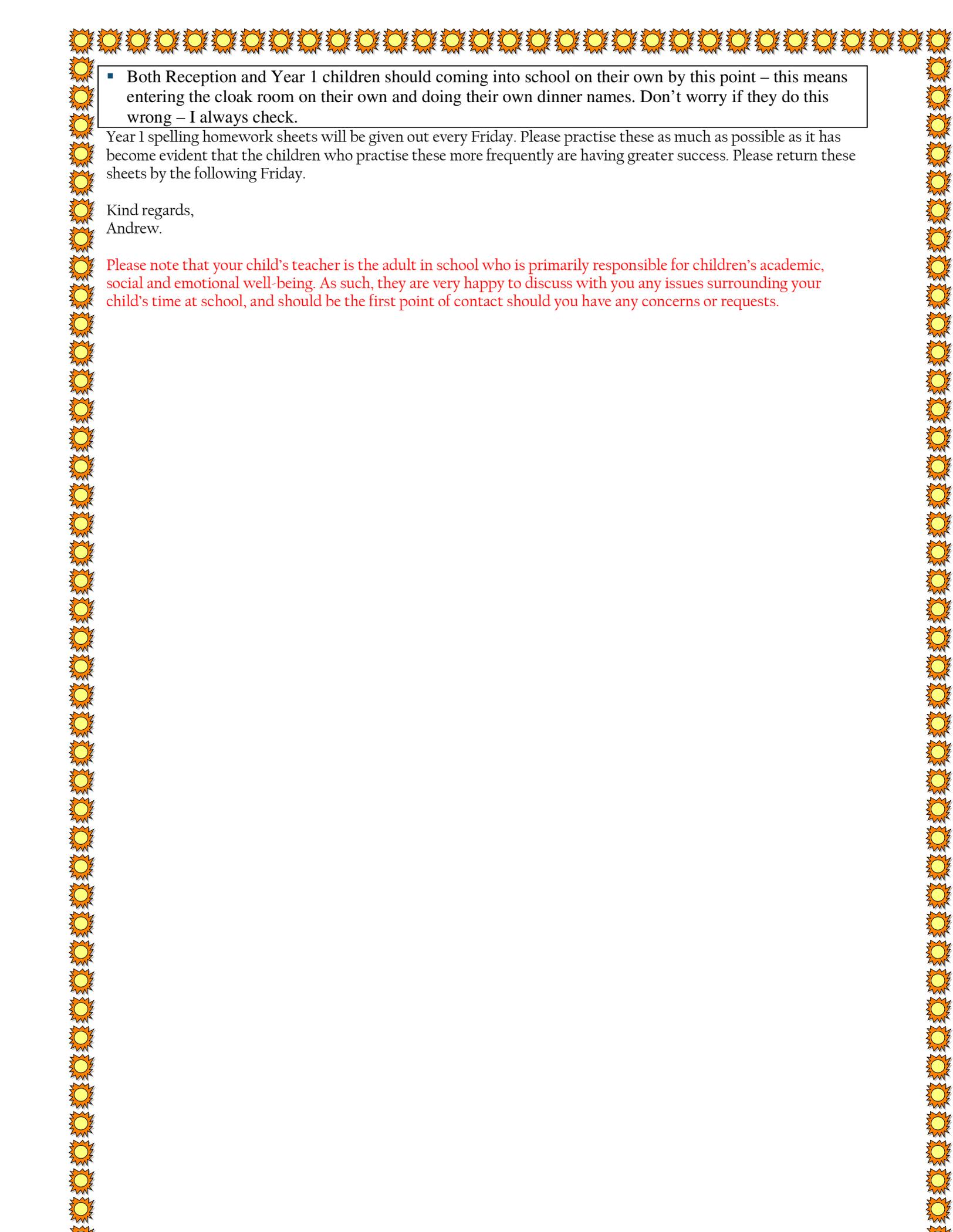
Topic

- Talk to the children about trains and perhaps visit the Railway Museum;
- Help children to understand that steam trains came before diesel and electric trains
- Talk to your child about a man called George Hudson and find out why he is important to York. (eg he convinced George Stephenson to route the line from Newcastle to London through York rather than bypassing it).

Personal

Encourage your child to be as independent as possible.

- Make sure they can brush their own teeth properly;
- Encourage them to tidy some of their toys away themselves;
- Encourage them to get their own book bags ready for school before they go to bed;

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- Both Reception and Year 1 children should coming into school on their own by this point – this means entering the cloak room on their own and doing their own dinner names. Don't worry if they do this wrong – I always check.

Year 1 spelling homework sheets will be given out every Friday. Please practise these as much as possible as it has become evident that the children who practise these more frequently are having greater success. Please return these sheets by the following Friday.

Kind regards,
Andrew.

Please note that your child's teacher is the adult in school who is primarily responsible for children's academic, social and emotional well-being. As such, they are very happy to discuss with you any issues surrounding your child's time at school, and should be the first point of contact should you have any concerns or requests.