



Wednesday 7th October 2020

Dear Families,

'The London Mini Marathon'

Since being back at school, we have noticed the need to create even more opportunities for the children to be physically active. Being physically active improves health and fitness and supports improved mental health and wellbeing. The children tire more quickly in an environment where 'movement' is minimal and so we are pleased to be able to host our very own Mini London Marathon for children in Years 1-6. This event will take place the week beginning **12th October** and will last all week. We want the children across the course of one week to be able to run 2.6 miles. Every child will be awarded a special certificate, once the distance has been covered but they must wear their trainers to school every day that week. They will only need to wear their PE kits on their designated PE day, as usual. We are all very much looking forward to achieving that milestone-let's hope the weather is kind to us.

Our reading expectation-a little reminder (Early Years and Key Stage 1)

Please aim to **read with your child every night** for at least 10 minutes. This is the very best homework for a child of this age. Older children, who are confident readers, must be encouraged to read a variety of books independently.

Use the reading record to record any comments that you have about your child's response to their book. Please write it in the next available box, not just the box labelled 'parent's comments.'

Please read the same book several times. This is so that your child becomes very familiar with the words and can read them with increasing confidence, fluency and expression. Reading like this will increase their ability to recognise high frequency words more readily.

You could focus on one skill each day such as this suggestion:

- 1- Predict what the story will be about (look at the cover and pictures)
- 2- Ask questions that clarify the vocabulary – What does 'skip' mean? In this book does it mean the big rubbish bin or jumping with alternate feet?
- 3- Ask retrieval questions (answers written in the text or showing in the pictures). Who went to the park?
- 4- Inference questions (deeper thinking with answers that are not obvious) Why did the girl skip to the park? (Maybe she was excited?)
- 5- Ask sequencing questions- What was the book about? What happened after/before/ at the end ...? Could you tell me the story in only 3 sentences/10 words...?
- 6- If you would like to, model the reading by using intonation and expression for the child to observe and understand how to use the punctuation: Full stop for a longer pause, comma for a smaller pause, speech marks mean someone is talking and could mean a slightly different voice is used.





7- Your child could write a book review about the book and include: the name of the book, what the book is about, who would they recommend it to and a 5-star rating to show if they like it or not. About 4 sentences, on any piece of paper would be great.

Of course, please continue to read other books alongside the school ones. This will greatly support your child's knowledge of stories, content and broaden their language.

Attendance update

We are very pleased to be able to report that our attendance percentage for last week was **96%**, a fabulous improvement on last week's attendance at 94.6%.

Your child's Google Classroom

Please do make sure that you have supported your child's activation of their Google Classroom account. You will only need to access the Google Classroom if your child is self-isolating, because a member of their household has tested positive for the coronavirus, is awaiting the results of a taken test of a member of their household or they are quarantining. Once you have activated your child's account, your child's classteacher will be able to send the daily learning activities, with your child completing them and sending two completed pieces back each week. Please do contact the office if you have mislaid your child's account details. Please keep these details stored in a safe place.

Geography themed day-Putting Mitcham on The Map

The children enjoyed their first Geography themed day this term, as all year groups spent the day developing their sense of place through interpreting maps and plans to 'Put Mitcham on the Map'. Children learned about the different purposes of maps, how to interpret them using symbols and grid references and how to use maps to give directions or plot a route. Here are a few lovely pictures that capture the learning.

Have a lovely rest of the week,
Mrs N Bull
Chief Executive Headteacher

