



Topaz News

Dear All,

We have had another busy week. We have been talking about using our problem solving and stick-ability this week. Try asking your child to tell you about a problem they have solved or how they have used their stick-ability when they come home. You might get more information than just asking what they have done! We have also been looking at how to use shapes in our painting and drawings and we needed to open an animal rescue to help out a squirrel with a broken tail.



Phonics and numbers

Thank you for the messages from people who have listened to the presentations about reading and writing. They explain our approach and how you can support from home. If you haven't had time to listen yet, please make time to do this. I am happy to help with any queries. This week the children are bringing home the first 2 sets of letters to practise at home. They need to know these really well to be able to use them effectively. If you want to practise the formation of letters, there is an online program called Skywriter that shows the correct formation of each one. We are not a cursive school.

<https://www.ictgames.com/mobilePage/skyWriter/index.html>

There will also be a keyring with all of the sounds that we will learn over the year. Please manage this from home by taking off the ones we haven't learnt yet and keeping on the ones they need to practise. These need to be kept in their book bag for use in school as well as home. Practising daily will help your child to be fluent and get them into good habits for later. The pronunciation of sounds is also on a video on Evidence Me. As a school we expect 5 times a week reading and this is our reading practise at the moment.

There is also a number fan. If your child is practising numbers to 10, take off the other numbers and keep them safe until they are needed.

Please look after them. We will want them back at the end of the year and they take ages to make.

Next week

Our final week in school before the half term. This term has flown by and the children have done an amazing job in starting school. They might be quite tired next week so plan some time to relax at the weekend.

Parent/teacher meetings

These are planned to take place online this term. They are run by our teachers2parents platform so there are some things to be aware of. The sessions are set in ten minute slots. At the end of your time it will cut off and take me into the next meeting. Usually this is enough time but if we need to continue a conversation, we can arrange to do this at another time. If next week isn't a good time for you or if we have recently met, we can always arrange something at another time when it suits.

Warm regards, *Sally Windmill*