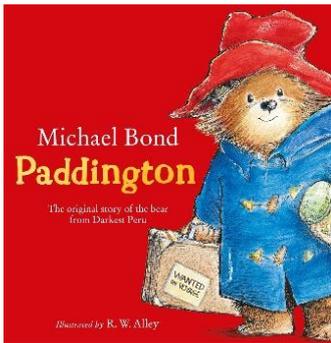
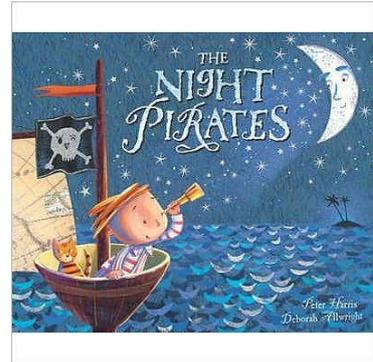


Dear Parents



Next term, Year 1 will be exploring adventure stories, focusing on exciting journeys, imaginative settings and brave characters. As part of this topic, we will be reading *The Night Pirates* by Peter Harris and Deborah Allwright, as well as *Paddington* (the original story of the bear from Darkest Peru) by Michael Bond.



In writing, we will be focusing on developing narrative skills, including writing in the past tense. The children will learn to use a variety of sentence types, such as statements, questions and exclamations, as well as how to join ideas using conjunctions. We will also be learning how to write simple instructions using clear command sentences.

The writing skills we are learning at school can also be supported at home through regular practise. The **BBC Bitesize** website offers a range of helpful videos and activities to explain these skills to your child and the links are provided below.:

1. How to structure a sentence:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zsv64qt#zdx3khv>

2. Using the conjunction “and” to join two sentences together:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zmqtnrd>

3. Different sorts of sentences – statements, questions, exclamations and commands:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zrqqtr/articles/zvp6dp3>

4. Using the past tense:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z3dbg82>

5. Adding “ed” to a verb to change it into the past tense:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z66nv82>

6. Using capital letters for the pronoun “I”

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z8x6cj6/articles/zj7dcmn>

Some of the vocabulary in the texts may be unfamiliar to your child, so we have included the definitions we use in school below. Please support your child in learning and understanding these words at home.

luggage (suitcase or other bags)	suitcase (a big bag)	platform (where passengers can get on and off a train at a station)	stowaway (someone who hides on a ship because they don't have a ticket)
voyage (a long journey by sea)	marmalade (jam made from oranges)	interior (inside of something)	a hush (a silence)
pirates (people who attack and rob ships at sea)	stealthy (to do something so as not to be seen or heard)	gremlins (naughty monsters)	adventure
trolls (ugly monsters)	ogres (giants who eat people)	shadow	bandits (people who rob other people)
rough (not gentle)	tough (strong)	disguise	crew (group)
aboard (to go onto a ship)	shipmate	island	snoozing (sleeping)
treasure chest	declared (said very clearly and firmly)	gaped (looked with amazement)	goggled (looked with amazement)

We will continue to follow the *Little Wandle Letters and Sounds (Revised)* phonics scheme to support your child's phonics learning. The Little Wandle website also provides lots of helpful information about the phonemes taught in Year 1, including videos demonstrating how to pronounce each sound correctly.

<https://www.littlewandlelettersandsounds.org.uk/resources/for-parents/>

This helpful link https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP_FbjYUP_UtldV2K_-niWw includes videos of lessons that teach all the phonemes in the same order they are introduced in school. To access these, look for the **Summer Term Year 1** lessons, click **Play All**, and then scroll down to **Lesson 1**.

This term, we will be revising all previously taught phonemes and graphemes in preparation for the Phonics Screening Check, which will take place **during the week beginning 8th June**.

We will be holding a parent information session about the Phonics Screening Check on **Wednesday 6th May** where we will share useful information and ways you can support your child at home.

The government website <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/phonics-screening-check-information-for-parents> has some useful information about the Phonics Screening Check as does this website <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/year-1-phonics-screening-check/> which also has lots of activities to help with practising reading.

This term, we will be assessing the children on reading and writing the first 100 high frequency words. By the end of Year 1, children are expected to be able to recognise, read and spell all of these words confidently. Please support your child at home by practising them regularly. Below is a link to **BBC Bitesize**, which may be a helpful resource for learning these words.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcgv39q/articles/zqx3sk7>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcgv39q/articles/z38t2v4>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcgv39q/articles/z7s9g7h>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcgv39q/articles/zg72dp3>

Additional ways to support your child at home:

- Read and talk about adventure stories together, discussing characters, settings and what might happen next.
- Encourage your child to retell stories such as *“The Night Pirates”* or *“Paddington”* in their own words to build comprehension and confidence.
- Revisit new vocabulary by using words in sentences or spotting them in other books.
- Practise reading with expression, especially when characters are speaking or showing emotion.
- Write simple instructions for everyday tasks (e.g., brushing teeth, making a sandwich).
- Write short sentences or captions about adventures using the past tense and a conjunction such as “and”.
- In the Phonics Screening Check, half of the words (20 out of 40) are made-up “alien” words. Practise reading nonsense words through real-and-nonsense phonics games. The PhonicsPlay website has some free games such as “Buried Treasure”, “Picnic on Pluto” and “Dragons Den” that you can play: <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>
- Encourage your child to use their phonics knowledge to sound out unfamiliar words using “sound talk fingers” spotting digraphs and trigraphs within the word.
- Use flashcards or quick-fire games to practise high frequency words daily.

Many thanks
Year 1 team