



Northchapel Primary School

growing kind and curious children who aspire to succeed

Caterpillar Class



Spring term 2025

Staff Team

Mrs Moore & Mrs Lintott

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year to all the children of Caterpillar Class and their families. We hope you all had a good holiday season and are rested and reenergised for the spring term. Our Year 1 topic this half term is 'Dinosaurs' and we will be looking at fossils, learning about the life of Mary Anning and exploring non-fiction books. During the latter half of the spring term, we will be discussing 'Holidays', specifically 'staycations' and how seaside holidays have changed over time. Please see our year group specific curriculum maps for more information.

Communication

Parent meetings for this term will be on the school calendar. Please remember that if you have an URGENT message, or your child will be absent, to ring or email the School Office (absence needs to be reported by 8:30 on every day of absence please, unless already documented on a medical/ absence request form).

For non-urgent messages, or queries about classwork/ homework/ or to discuss your child in school, my email is nmoore@northchapelprimary.co.uk

Homework (including reading)

Please refer to Year 1 Homework Grids, School Homework Policy or Autumn's Class Letter on our Class Page on the School Website for more information:

<https://www.northchapel.w-sussex.sch.uk/page/?title=Caterpillar+Class&pid=13>

Phonic sounds and key words

Reception

In Reception, we will continue to send home weekly phonics sound cards and matching pictures for each new sound they have been learning that week, as well as tricky (or non-decodable) words for the phase they are working in, and some words which they need to be able to read on sight, and then write. Please practise these with your child for a few minutes each night. You can use the space in the A4 yellow books to practise or record what your child has been practicing at home. These cards will accumulate as we add new sounds through the year. If you are new to phonics, Oxford Owl has some useful information and videos which you may find helpful:

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/reading-at-home/>

Year 1

Children will continue to have daily phonics sessions and will be sent home spellings on Fridays. Please practise spelling and writing these at home, using rainbow colours, in chalk or water on the patio, using a finger in a tray of flour or rice, or making the letters using playdough, the more fun the better! Children will be assessed on their home spellings the Friday after they have been taught and sent home.

Home items (show and tell)

Please can all toys and trinkets, and belongings not compulsory over the school day, be kept at home and not brought in to school now we are in our second term. Thank you.

If your child would like to 'Show and Tell', you can send in photos via Tapestry or Email which we can share and of course, topic grid homework to inspire others. If your child would like to bring in a certificate or similar, please ensure this is appropriately protected and clearly named and that your child hands it to me at the start of the day for safe-keeping.

Year 1 will be challenged to 'Present their Learning' to the class fortnightly, this is an opportunity for them to showcase their learning and discoveries from their choosing time in provision.

Covering all weathers

We will be playing outside every day! As the spring term is subject to variable, chilly weather, please ensure your child has a pair of wellies which they keep at school, a WARM waterproof coat, and a school jumper. If your child gets cold through the day, an additional thermal layer or top should be worn underneath their full school uniform, which they should be in every day.

Forest School & Swimming

Forest School Dates this term for Caterpillar Class (Yr1 &R) are as follows:

- February 25th,
- March 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th,
- April 1st.

These sessions will replace PE on those Tuesdays, children to come to school in their Forest School clothes. Swimming will not be taking place this term for Caterpillar Class as it is still too cold. Watch this space for the summer term!

PE

Will take place led by Mrs Gibbs every **Tuesday afternoon**. Please can your child wear their PE kit to school on this day.

Sharing Assemblies

These whole school assemblies are held on *some* Friday mornings at 9am and parents will be invited in to share our learning. Please check our newsletter and school calendar on the website for details.

We are very much looking forward to working in partnership with you and your children.

Mrs Nikki Moore
Class Teacher