



# Welcome to Panda and Gorilla Classes



## Happy New Year and Welcome to Spring Term 1

We hope you and your children had a fantastic Christmas break together and time to relax. Last term was a long one and we know there were some very tired children by the end of it!

Our topic for this half term is  
**"What can I feel, taste, hear and smell?"**

This topic will give us lots of opportunities to describe our own environment using knowledge from observations, discussion, stories, non-fiction texts and maps. The children will explore and investigate outside using some of their senses.

Look out for weekly Vocabulary Sheets on Class Dojo which will link to what the children are learning in school.

### Diary Dates

- 13th -Jan- Senses Wow Day
- 23rd Jan - National Handwriting Day
- 28th Jan -National Lego Day
- 29th Jan-Lunar New Year
- 5th Feb -World Read Aloud Day
- 6th Feb -Time to Talk Day
- 12th Feb -Charity day- Panda and Gorilla day
- 14th Feb -Happy Valentine Day
- Last day of school before half term
- 24th February: School re-opens

**\* More information will follow about the different diary dates. \***

### Literacy

Our topic this half term will support our phonics teaching, with lots of opportunities to talk about characters, settings and plots. We will also be developing our own stories in class and celebrating World Read Aloud Day.

Please continue to read with your child at home at least three times a week and practise their letters and any word sheets. It really does make a difference to their progress and confidence in school.

### Social and Emotional Development

This half term we will be continuing to support the children to play positively and to resolve disputes through talking.

We will also be identifying a range of healthy foods and we will be undertaking activities relating to this in class.

### Knowledge and Understanding of the World

Our topic this half term will enable us to learn about our outside environment using their senses.

We ask everybody who can to contribute **50p** a week towards additional snacks and experiences for the children.

### Maths

In maths this half-term, we will be exploring the composition of numbers—first to five and then to ten.

We will also be using increasing accuracy vocabulary involving adding and subtracting.

Most of our maths teaching is delivered through practical activities and experiences, with the opportunity for children to use our maths resources throughout every day.

### Physical Development

PE this half term will be on a Thursday for both classes. The children have the exciting opportunity to take part in cricket with an outside coach. We will also be undertaking a range of additional physical activities including Dough Disco and Yoga

As we will only be having PE indoors this half term the children will just need their PE T-shirt, shorts and plimsols in their PE bags. Please make sure all kit is clearly labelled.

Please note that if your child wears earrings these will be needed to be removed at home or covered with tape.

We know that issues/worries can emerge from time to time so do let us know if there is anything worrying your child (either from home or school) so that we can support them effectively in school.