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| C:\Users\callieb\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\6GIQ11Y6\Green_Plants[1].jpg**Seedlings curriculum focus** |
| Dear Parents,  Happy new year! I am very excited to be Seedling’s new teacher for the remainder of this year! We have a very busy and exciting term ahead as we launch in to our Spring term topic ‘Animal allsorts.’  To support our learning within this topic, we will be going on a trip to a farm during this topic so please look out for permission forms in the upcoming weeks!  Year 1 Phonics and reading  Children will continue having daily rigorous 20 minute phonics sessions (read,write,inc) in small focussed groups, where they are streamed by their stage of phonic awareness. This will then be followed by a guided reading session where the children will learn to tackle tricky words and develop their understanding of fiction and non-fiction.  W/C 4th June the children will be undertaking the national year one phonics test. You will be given a hand out during parent appointments with additional information regarding the test.  Year 1 Mathematics (daily 60 minute sessions)  Number and Place value, Mental addition and subtraction, Mental multiplication and division, Geometry, Statistics, Measurement.  Year 1 PE:  Our PE sessions this term will be on a Wednesday and Friday afternoon. On Wednesday the children will be doing gymnastics with me and on Friday afternoon’s the children will be doing football with Miss Keast from Plymouth Argyle.  Can I request that any children with long hair have their hair tied up on PE days and that they have the correct PE kit in school at all times (Blue T-shirt, Black/White shorts, trainers/plimsolls). If your child has their ears pierced, it is recommended that they also do not wear earrings on these days; however if you are unable to remove them tape is applied over them to prevent injury.  99 Club  The 99 club will begin next term and has been developed to help raise standards in Numeracy by encouraging pupils to improve their mental maths and therefore increase the speed and confidence they tackle mental maths problems in Numeracy sessions, across the curriculum and in day to day life. All pupils have **one opportunity per week** to complete the next level. This is done at the **same time across the whole school** and lasts for 10 minutes. They start on 11 club and work their way up. Pupils are able to practise at home using practise sheets available on the website. The order of the questions changes so it is not possible for children to simply learn the answers in a particular order.  Year 1 Homework –  Spellings  Children will begin to have daily spelling lessons where a new spelling rule will be introduced at the beginning of the week. On Fridays they will be tested on the rule. 10 spellings will be sent home on Monday to learn and the test on Friday will comprise of at least 5 words from the list plus new words with the same spelling rule. They will need to ensure that they bring their spelling books back in to school on Friday’s to complete the test.  Mathematics  We will begin to have weekly maths homework at the start of next term. This will be sent home in a book. In their books there will be work that is from them to show their skills which links to what they have learnt that week.  Topic  The children will receive a choice of an activity to complete relating to our current topic which they have until the end of this half term to complete. This is designed to be a fun task for you to work on with your child and so that the both of you can better understand what is happening in the classroom.  Daily reading:  Reading is the one of the most important and valuable activities you can do with your child. Sharing and enjoying stories impacts on all other areas of a child’s learning and development. There is an expectation that you read with your child every day. Spend time talking about the content or story so that your child understands what he or she is reading, as well as just decoding the words. It would be helpful if you could then record the date and book title in your child’s yellow reading record book, adding any comments you may have.  **Children will need to hand their reading books into the basket in the morning so that they can change their individual reading book – this needs to be done every day.** I will also be checking their reading records in order to respond to any queries or celebrations about your child’s reading that you have. Any child that has read at least three times in the week will get a gold sticker on our new reading chart. Please remember that in guided reading sessions, the children will be reading books that are a stage higher than what they are reading at home with you. **Therefore they should be reading the words confidently and be working on their fluency and expression at this point, rather than learning new words**. If you feel that your child is struggling with the banded books that have been provided, please feel free to discuss this with me and we can look at amending the band.  Further to this, although we ask for the children to read the book provided, it is not the only type of reading that we promote so please continue to read their own books with them as an additional enjoyment sessions.  Also, a reminder that the classroom will be open on Friday morning from 8.40 – 8.55 and this is for you to change your book with your child, look at their books or play their favourite game with them!  Thank you for your continued support and here’s to a great term,  Yours Sincerely  Emily Sturges  (Year 1 Teacher – Seedlings) |