



This half term, our topic is all about pirates. Thank you for your support with dressing up for Pirate Day – the children looked fabulous, and really enjoyed talking like pirates and creating treasure maps. We are really looking forward to the rest of this topic.

**Literacy:** Pirates gives us a fantastic range of texts to use to inspire our writing. Using 'A New Home for a pirate', we will be describing pirates and retelling a familiar story. The Pirates Next Door will be the starting point for nonfiction writing including notes and letters. We will also be writing 'Kenning' poems about pirates.

*Please continue to help at home by encouraging your child to complete the reading challenge every week. Children who are reading regularly make better progress.*

*It is also important to practise the spellings that are sent home on a Thursday, ready for testing on Tuesdays. Children need to practise the spellings little and often to ensure they remember the words and are able to use them in their writing. Attached to the end of this letter is the list of words that children are expected to be able to use in their writing by the end of Year 1.*

**Mathematics:** Our maths this half term will consolidate our understanding of numbers up to 100. The children are becoming confident to identify the tens and ones in a number (e.g. 53 = 5 tens and 3 units) and we will use this to order and compare numbers. Calculation skills will continue to *practise* addition and subtraction to 20, with a focus on reasoning. For example, I know that 14 and 3 is 17 so 15 and 3 will be 18 because 15 is 1 more than 14. We will also extend our understanding of sharing as division and multiplication as lots of, focusing on the 2, 5 and 10 times tables.

*There is a game at the end of this letter to play to practise adding with your child. Counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, and working out '5 lots of 2' or 3 lots of 10' will support their multiplication skills. Learning to tell the time to the nearest half hour, and work out the time 1 hour later or 1 hour earlier will benefit your child.*

**Science:** This half term, we are investigating pushes and pulls – finding out how to move things faster or slower and how pushing or pulling can change the shape of things. We will continue to embed the skills to observe, predict and explain what we have found out through our investigations.

**Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE):** This half term we are going to be learning about how to stay safe. We will learn about safety inside and outside, and thinking about whose job it is to stay safe. A particular focus of our learning will be safety online and who to go to if they are worried.

**Geography:** In geography, we will be learning about the continents and main oceans of the world and identifying them on a map.

**I.C.T:** We are going to be using Purple Mash to learn how to code and write algorithms (instructions). This will build on our work last half term of using BeeBots.

**Religious Education:** In RE, we are going to be thinking about places that are special to us, and then learning about the Church as a special place for Christians and the Mosque as a special place for Muslims. We will be walking to St John's Church in Purbrook – look out for details as we will need some helpers to come with us!

**Physical Education:** We will be learning how to use the apparatus in PE, thinking about different shapes that we can make with our bodies and exploring ways of moving over, around and under the equipment.

**Music:** This half term we are going to be learning to play the ocarina! The skills of holding an instrument, playing and not playing at the right time and reading the music, so lots to learn! We will be working towards a concert – look out for details when we think we are ready!

### **HOME LEARNING CHALLENGE:**

Design and make a treasure chest – you can use lego, junk modelling or draw a treasure chest. Decide what 'treasures' you will put inside – it could be jewels and gold, or you could think about what is precious in other ways – for example, photos of your family, places that are special...

We would love to see these in school!

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like further information or have expertise to support the curriculum and the children's learning in any way. We are always very grateful for willing volunteers to support reading in school. You do not have to have any particular skills; just some time that you can share with us.

The players have a Pirate game board between them and a pile of 10 coloured counters each. They take it in turn to roll three dice. The player who rolled now works out the sum of the three numbers and looks for this number on the board. If the number is available, he/she can cover it with one of their own counters. Encourage your child to explain how they calculated the total – e.g.  $4+2$  makes 6, and another 6 makes 12. I can cover the number 12.

# Pirate Dash

The game board features a grid of numbers on yellow banners. The numbers are arranged as follows:

12	4	10	6
15	7	18	Anchor
17	11	6	14
3	8	13	5
15	18		
12	9	16	

Illustrations on the board include a pirate with a red hat and a yellow shirt, a small island with two palm trees, a treasure chest filled with gold coins, and a pirate ship with a skull and crossbones on its sail. An anchor is also present.

**MATHSTICKS**

# Year 1 Common Exception Words

are  
ask  
be  
come  
do  
friend  
full  
go  
has  
he  
here  
his  
house  
is

love  
me  
my  
no  
of  
once  
one  
our  
pull  
push  
put  
said  
say  
school

she  
so  
some  
the  
there  
they  
to  
today  
was  
we  
were  
where  
you  
your