



## **Whale Class**

### **December 2017 Newsletter**

Dear Whale Class parents,

We are going to do more book work in December. I intend to finish the set work, and still do extra work in phonics, writing, and grammar class. We are doing more speaking practice in grammar class, and I am providing more examples for how to use each word in the Wonders book. Otherwise, the following information remains true:

In addition to the book I mentioned before, we are going to use the Ladybird Keywords system in the extra reading class that some of them have with me.

For phonics, in addition to the set book, Sadlier Phonics, I am using the simple phonics in the McGraw Hill Wonders book for activities in class, and for handwriting practice. I am also reading Dr. Seuss books with them, which present the phonics in a very engaging way.

Handwriting is hard for little children. We practice each week, and I am spending extra time with the seven students who need help with writing the most. We do practice pages, and we also use writing in some of our games. All the writing I do on the board uses the same font as their practice pages and homework. At the moment, the children enjoy writing sometimes. I will make sure not to overload them and will give a lot of praise and encouragement.

For reading, we use the McGraw Hill Wonders, and Scholastic everyday books. We read together, in teams, and individually. A few of the students are not able to read yet, and they are getting extra help from me when I can spare time. For extra help, I am using the book 'Teach your Child to Read in 100 lessons' by Siegfried Engelmann. It is one of the best resources for teaching basic literacy, but unfortunately we have very little time to work on it, because it needs to be done one on one.

The following pages detail the December schedule by subject.

Yours reasonably,

- Taliesin Hoyle (Teacher Tal)

## READING

WEEK 1 Story Book – .Hot, Hot, Hot      Core Material Book (Unit 2 Week 1) – Nate the Snake is Late  
WEEK 2 Story Book – Shadows              Core Material Book (Unit 2 Week 2) – The Nice Mitten  
WEEK 3 Story Book – Please Sit Still      Core Material Book (Unit 2 Week 2) – The Nice Mitten  
WEEK 4 Story Book – Is Anybody Home? Core Material Book (Unit 2 Week 2) – The Nice Mitten

## PHONICS

WEEK 1 Phonics Workbook (page 82 to 85) hard c and g, soft c and g  
WEEK 2 Phonics Workbook (page 86 to 88) final consonant blends  
WEEK 3 Phonics Workbook (page 90, 91, and 93) consonant blends review  
WEEK 4 Phonics Workbook (page 94, 97, and 98) assessment and review

## VOCABULARY

Vocabulary will be from the McGraw-Hill Reading Wonders books, and other words that I will take from the phonics book and small readers.

## WRITING

WEEK 1 hard c and soft c  
WEEK 2 hard g and soft g  
WEEK 3 final consonant blends  
WEEK 4 initial consonant blends

## GRAMMAR

WEEK 1 Grammar Workbook (page 36 to 37) He goes to school / Present simple review  
WEEK 2 Grammar Workbook (page 38 to 39) Apostrophe / Mr Owl's puzzle  
WEEK 3 Grammar Workbook (page 40 to 41) Review spelling /Review grammar  
WEEK 4 Grammar Workbook (page 42 to 43) Animals / Do you/they like..?

## MATH

WEEK 1 Math Workbook (Level E4) – pages 1 to 6 Addition  
WEEK 2 Math Workbook (Level E4) – pages 7 to 12 More or Less  
WEEK 3 Math Workbook (Level E4) – pages 13 to 18 Correspondence  
WEEK 4 Math Workbook (Level E5) – pages 1 to 4 Subtraction

## SONGS

Instead of doing a song for three weeks, we are going to spend December singing a few carols and Christmas songs, as well as some of the songs for children by the band They Might be Giants, from their excellent educational albums “Here come the ABCs” and “Here come the 123s”. This is what I intend to do for the remainder of the year, so we will build up a repertoire of songs for them to sing in the mornings.