

Whale Class Newsletter August/September 2023

Hello Parents,

It's the beginning of the new semester and we have some new books. In addition to the grammar book there is now a writing book (Write Now) and the school is assigning the kids 2 pieces of homework a week. One is phonics and the other is reading comprehension. These worksheets seem relatively simple so I will still give the class some homework on Fridays.

The reading books are now more difficult and take more time for the kids to read. I think the class will cope with the new books very well as they worked hard last semester and already did a lot for phonics. They also have good handwriting so I think they will cope with the writing tasks quite well.

Core Material

This month's key words are **again, help, new, there** and **use**. The phonics is short e words, which the class are quite familiar with. The **workshop** story is **Good Job Ben**, which is about different jobs that people do. The **anthology** story is **The Red Hat**, which is about firefighters.

AUGUST	(WORKSHOP)
Week 1:	Good Job Ben.
Week 2:	Good Job Ben.
Week 3:	Good Job Ben.
Week 4:	Good Job Ben.
Week 5:	The Red Hat
SEPTEMBER	(ANTHOLOGY)
Week 1:	The Red Hat
Week 2:	The Red Hat
Week 3:	The Red Hat
Week 4:	The Red Hat

Conversation/Grammar (Grammar Space)

The grammar book is quite complex and the first two months focus on quite difficult to remember grammatical rules. It's good for the kids to have some practice with it and they will remember the rules, but it's not something they can use correctly at their age.

(Although the class are doing well with plurals, particularly when reading the stories.)

AUGUST	
Week 1:	Vowels and capital letters
Week 2:	Capital letters and punctuation
Week 3:	a/an
Week 4:	a/an
Week 5:	Plural nouns
SEPTEMBER	
Week 1:	Questions + plural/singular (Is he...?, Are they...?)
Week 2:	is/are + plurals

- Week 3: is/are + plurals
Week 4: Subject verb agreement (I read/she reads)

Phonics

This year's phonics book is very similar to last semester's book. Spelling of short words and review of different consonant blends and spelling rules. For August we will be looking at short vowels. The class find this kind of work pretty easy, the words they need to spell are the same as last semester's and most of them are only 3 or 4 letter words. For this reason we will have time to practice some of the more complex things they learned in K4. In September we will be going back to long vowels. We will do this a bit more slowly as the kids need to review the different ways of making long vowel sounds. From October we will start to look at new concepts.

AUGUST

- Week 1: Short a
Week 2: Short e
Week 3: Short i
Week 4: Short o
Week 5: Short u + Review of short vowels

SEPTEMBER

- Week 1: Long a
Week 2: Long e
Week 3: Long i
Week 4: Long o

Write Now

This is a new book for the kids, they have to answer question and write their own sentences. At the end of each unit they need to write a short essay (3 to 5 sentences). This part is quite difficult, especially at the beginning of K5 I will put an example on the whiteboard, with gaps for the students to write their own ideas. I think the class will do a good job with the book as they are already good at writing and understand that they need to leave spaces between words and use periods.

AUGUST: My Family and Friends

- Week 1: Family members vocab + Sentences about your friends and family
Week 2: Answering personal questions
Week 3: Describing your friends
Week 4: Write a short essay about one of your friends
Week 5: Review

SEPTEMBER: My Crazy Sandwich

- Week 1: Food vocab + Fill in the gaps exercise
Week 2: Grammar I have + a/an
Week 3: Write about a sandwich – a/an/plurals/some
Week 4: Review and write about a crazy sandwich

Story Books

We have a new set of story books. A lot of the books this semester are "Little Critter" books. You'll see that there is quite a big jump in the length and complexity of the books they are now reading. There are more difficult words to read and longer sentences.

However, the class should still do well with the books.

We also do some simple Q&A with the stories, the class are quite enthusiastic about trying to answer questions and they have lots to say about the stories. This semester's books are a bit more complicated, but still quite similar to last semester. There is a wider

variety of vocabulary and the sentence patterns are more varied, so it can be harder for the kids to remember all of the sentences.

AUGUST

- Week 1: A Pig, a Fox and a Box.
- Week 2: A Pig, a Fox and some Stinky Socks.
- Week 3: City, Farm and Sea
- Week 4: Farm Animals
- Week 5: I Just Forgot

SEPTEMBER

- Week 1: Just a Little Love
- Week 2: Just a Special Day
- Week 3: Just a Teacher's Pet
- Week 4: Just Me and My Dad

Math

MPM is very similar to last semester, with the same kind of tasks. There are also addition and subtraction books which the class do when we have extra time. The kids will have more time to practice number writing and there are also line drawing tasks like mazes. The class found this idea quite hard to understand and not all of the students understood that they had to follow the walls of the maze. This should be one thing they find easier this semester.

AUGUST

- Week 1: Functions, counting
- Week 2: Counting, mazes
- Week 3: Mazes
- Week 4: Comparatives – more than, less than
- Week 5: Comparatives, properties (Matching shapes and colors)

SEPTEMBER

- Week 1: Counting
- Week 2: Counting, writing numbers
- Week 3: Spatial Correspondence
- Week 4: Sticker Book

Spelling

Spelling is obviously the same. The spelling lists tend to follow the phonics book now, but also include some high-frequency words so the kids will have more chance to remember what they have learned.

Physical Education

We have PE on Thursday afternoons. At the moment we are just doing simple activities like foot or tricycle races because the kids can understand the idea easily. This semester we can try relay races where the kids pass batons to each other and race in teams.

Song and Dance

The school day starts with song and dance. The children get the chance to move around and have some fun before we start our first class. I also like to have them practice between classes or at the end of the day sometimes so that the students have the opportunity to move around and have some fun rather than sit for extended periods of time.

AUGUST

- Week 1: I Have a Car
- Week 2: I Have a Car

Week 3: Lion Sleeps Tonight

Week 4: Lion Sleeps Tonight

Week 5: Riding on a Train

SEPTEMBER

Week 1: Riding on a Train

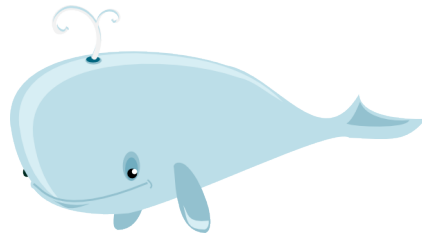
Week 2: I Can See Clearly Now

Week 3: I Can See Clearly Now

Week 4: I Can See Clearly Now

See you next time!

Teacher Kevin



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親愛的家長您好

新學期開始了，我們有一些新書。除了語法書之外，現在還有一本寫作書（Write Now），學校每週給孩子們兩份回家作業。一是自然拼讀，二是閱讀理解。這些作業看起來相對簡單，所以我仍然會在周五給班級一些回家作業。

現在閱讀的書籍更加困難些，孩子們需要更多的時間來閱讀。但我認為班級能夠很好地應對新書，因為他們上學期很努力，並且已經在自然拼讀方面做了很多工作。他們的書寫也很好，所以我認為他們能夠很好地應對寫作任務的。

Core Material 主教材:

本月的關鍵詞又是、幫助、新、那里和使用。自然拼讀法是全班同學都非常熟悉的短單詞。教材裡的故事講述的是人們所做的不同工作。選集故事則是《戴著紅帽子的人》，講述的是消防員的故事。

八月（WORKSHOP）

第1週：做得好，班。

第2週：做得好，班。

第3週：做得好，班。

第4週：做得好，班。

第5週：紅帽

九月（選集）

第1週：紅帽

第2週：紅帽

第3週：紅帽

第4週：紅帽

Conversation 對話/ Grammar 文法 (Grammar Space)

這本語法書相當複雜，前兩個月主要集中在很難記住的語法規則上。對於孩子們來說，進行一些練習是有好處的，他們會記住規則，但這不是他們這個年齡就能正確使用的東西。

（儘管全班在復數方面表現得很好，尤其是在閱讀故事時。）

八月

第 1 週：母音和大寫字母

第 2 週：大寫字母和標點符號

第 3 週：a/an

第 4 週：a/an

第 5 週：複數名詞

九月

第 1 週：問題+複數/單數（他是……嗎？，他們是……嗎？）

第 2 週：is/are + 複數

第 3 週：is/are + 複數

第 4 週：主謂一致（我讀/她讀）

Phonics 發音

今年的自然拼讀書與上學期的書非常相似。短單詞的拼寫以及不同輔音混合和拼寫規則的複習。八月我們將學習短母音。同學們都覺得這樣的作業很簡單，需要拼的單詞和上學期的一樣，而且大多只有三四個字母的單詞。因此，我們將有時間練習他們在 K4 中學到的一些更複雜的東西。九月份我們將回到長母音。我們會放慢一點，因為孩子們需要復習發出長母音的不同方法。從十月份開始我們將開始研究新概念。

八月

第 1 週：短 a

第 2 週：短 e

第 3 週：短篇 i

第 4 週：短 o

第 5 週：短 u + 短母音複習

九月

第一週：長 a

第 2 週：長 e

第 3 週：長 i

第 4 週：長 o

Write Now

這是一本給孩子們的新書，他們必須回答問題並寫自己的句子。在每個單元結束時，他們需要寫一篇短文（3 到 5 句話）。這部分是比較難的，尤其是 K5 開始的時候我會在白板上放一個例子，留有空白讓學生寫出自己的想法。我認為全班同學會很好地完成這本書，因為他們已經擅長寫作並且理解他們需要在單詞和使用句點之間留出空格。

八月 我的家人和朋友

第 1 週：家庭成員詞彙+關於你的朋友和家人的句子

第 2 週：回答個人問題

第 3 週：描述你的朋友

第 4 週：寫一篇關於你的一個朋友的短文

第 5 週：回顧

九月 我的瘋狂三明治

第 1 週：食物詞彙+填空練習

第2週：（語法）我有 + a/an

第3週：寫一篇關於三明治的文章 – a/an/複數/some

第4週：回顧並寫一篇瘋狂的三明治

Story Books 故事小書

我們有一套新的故事書。這學期的很多書都是“小動物”書。你會發現他們現在正在閱讀的書籍的長度和複雜性有了很大的躍升。有更難讀的單詞和更長的句子。然而，課堂上的書本仍然應該表現良好。

我們還對故事進行了一些簡單的問答，全班同學都非常熱情地嘗試回答問題，並且對故事有很多話要說。這學期的書有點複雜，但仍然與上學期相似。詞彙種類更加豐富，句型也更加多樣化，因此孩子們記住所有句子可能會更加困難。

八月

第1週：一隻豬、一隻狐狸和一個盒子。

第2週：一隻豬、一隻狐狸和一些臭襪子。

第3週：城市、農場和海洋

第4週：農場動物

第5週：我剛剛忘記了

九月

第1週：一點點愛

第2週：只是一個特別的日子

第3週：只是老師的寵物

第4週：只有我和我爸爸

Math 數學

MPM 與上學期非常相似，任務類型相同。還有加法和減法書，是我們在課餘時間時做的。孩子們將有更多的時間練習數字書寫，還有迷宮等畫線任務。全班同學發現這個想法很難理解，並不是所有的學生都明白他們必須沿著迷宮的牆壁走。這應該是他們本學期發現更容易的一件事。

八月

第1週：函數、計數

第2週：計數、迷宮

第3週：迷宮

第4週：比較——大於、小於

第5週：比較、屬性（匹配形狀和顏色）

九月

第1週：計數

第2週：數數、寫數字

第3週：空間對應

第4週：貼紙書

Spelling 拼音練習

拼寫顯然是一樣的。現在的拼寫列表傾向於跟著自然拼讀的書，但也包括一些高頻單詞，這樣孩子們就有更多機會記住他們所學的內容。

Physical Education 體能活動

我們目前在星期四下午有體育課。目前我們只是做一些簡單的活動，比如步行或三輪車比賽，因為孩子們可以很容易地理解這個想法。這個學期我們可以嘗試接力賽，孩子們互相傳遞接力棒，並在團隊中比賽。

Song and Dance 唱歌跳舞：

在校園課程活動的每一天，我們都會運用歌曲律動來開始展開。孩子們在進行第一堂課程活動之前能夠有動動身體並享受於歌曲其中的機會，除此之外，在課程的轉銜時間或是每天將結束課程活動之時，我也喜歡讓孩子們能夠有唱歌跳舞的娛樂時間勝過於只是坐著等待課程的轉換。

八月

第 1 週：I Have a Car

第 2 週：I Have a Car

第 3 週：Lion Sleeps Tonight

第 4 週：Lion Sleeps Tonight

第 5 週：Riding on a Train

九月

第 1 週：Riding on a Train

第 2 週：I Can See Clearly Now

第 3 週：I Can See Clearly Now

第 4 週：I Can See Clearly Now

我們下次見！

Teacher Kevin