

# Year 1 Learning Letter (Spring 1)

January 2017  
Issue 3

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Believe in world of possibilities

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## Year 1's Learning News

Welcome... and Happy New Year from the Year 1 Team!

*Don't forget to check out our class blogs (linked on our year group page of the BPS website). Each week we post our Friday Favourites as chosen by the children and these will give you an insight into the exciting events of each class. Sometimes this will be a curriculum focus, a particular activity, a class- social reflection or sometimes a new development we are eager to share. There are always lots of pictures to share and it is a great opportunity for discussions about school, learning and current interests with your child. The children love looking at parental comments and get so excited to know families are looking at our learning! We hope you enjoy reading it!*

## What we will be learning...with top learning tips

### Reading... predicting and inferring...

Learning Top Tip - when you first explore the book it can be fun to try and guess what might happen in the text. Are there any clues in the pictures to suggest what could happen next? Sometimes you can think about a similar personal experience or how you might feel in a situation to help you understand the characters and their motivations.

### Writing... prefixes and suffixes

Learning Top Tip - prefixes and suffixes can be added to root words to change the meaning, and when teaching this we make a screwing action to remind us they are 'fixed' onto the word. So far we have looked at **ing** as in *cooking* and **ed** as in *jumped*. Next we'll be learning **er** as in *helper* and **un** as in *unhappy*.

### Maths... counting and reading numbers to 100

Learning Top Tip - remember there are lots of different games to play with counting on a 100 square. Crab counting reminds you to count along the rows backwards and forwards (21, 22, 23...). Spider counting reminds you to count up and down the columns (31, 41, 51...). Frog counting reminds you to leap from numbers in multiples (2, 4, 6...).

### Phonics... Phase 4 consonant blends.

Learning Top Tip -these blends are when there are two or three consonants at the beginning or end of a word (such as the *s-c-r* in *screw*, *t-w* in *twist*, or *n-k* in *bank*) and they can often prove a little tricky. If you are struggling to blend these consonants try drumming them out with your hands on your knees or the table top as you say them. Build up the speed as you say them until you are comfortable saying them quickly and accurately.

## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January - Y4 cakes after school
- ◆ **Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January – SPaG Parent Session Y1 2:15 pm Con B**
- ◆ Weds 24<sup>th</sup> 6pm Panto club performance to families
- ◆ Weds 31<sup>st</sup> Feb Y3/4 performance to families 6.30pm (1/2), Thurs 1<sup>st</sup> Feb performance to families 1.45pm (2/2)...more details to follow from the Year 3/4 teams
- ◆ Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February - Y3 cakes after school



What could have happened to the missing fossil?

*“maybe someone climbed through the air vents undetected!”*

*“maybe it isn’t gone, maybe it is hiding somewhere”*

*“maybe someone who worked there wanted it for themselves!”*



What could we do to help the investigation?

*“find out who was working there that day”*

*“find out if the fossil was valuable and look out for someone selling it”*

*“work out how someone could’ve got in!”*

## What we will be learning...

Science - Animals - focusing on mammals, continuing to observe seasonal changes and developing our understanding of working scientifically

Art - portraits/photography, using ICT, exploring the work of Lord Snowdon

DT - strengthening structures, using tools and equipment and materials

Geography - continent study - North America, using maps, atlases and globes - looking at symbols and key physical/human features.

History - changes over living memory

PSHCE - Dreams and Goals

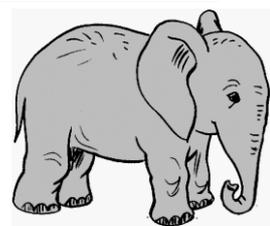
PE - indoor gymnastics Wednesday / outdoor team sports Thursday

At BPS our school values underpin everything we do. Whilst we plan frequent opportunities to explore these within our curriculum, we also find the children are motivated in promoting these values themselves. Since introducing them to the work of Sir David Attenborough as part of our ongoing topics we have been amazed and impressed by the children’s curiosity about the world. They have bombarded us with questions and are so eager to find out more! Whether it is through discussions about climate change and the ways they can contribute to caring for the environment or the ways they can support protection of endangered species, they have become thoughtful, active and enthusiastic citizens. We are so proud of the real sense of awe and wonder at the surrounding world that the children have developed and we hope to continue to foster their curiosity to inspire their learning further.

## 6Rs (growth mindset) top tip:

6R - Resilience

We will be exploring our resilience this half term - that means persevering even when things are tricky! When we find things hard we could ask our friends to explain, or ask an adult for help, or use resources to help us... there are lots of ways to get support but it is important to not give up!



### Exciting News...

As part of the development of ‘Talk For Writing’ across the school each year group has designed an ‘Epic Tale’ to underpin and inspire our learning for the year. The story so far...

Sir David Attenborough contacted us about his project ‘Jurassica’ that is being developed on Portland and asked if we’d like to be involved. First we assessed different materials to recommend using Portland Stone in the building of Jurassica. With his recommendation of ‘A Child’s Thought’ as an inspirational poem he enjoyed as a child, we recreated our own versions for our poetry performance. We loved learning about castles and dragons in traditional tales so Sir David suggested we learn about real life dragons (and other reptiles) using clips from his programs. We went on our own Dragon Quest and learned about their habitats, especially Asia. London Zoo (with whom Sir David has been working for many decades) contacted us and asked us to use our dragon expertise to write a child-friendly set of instructions for ‘How to wash a Komodo Dragon’ for their new enclosure. On our return to school we were astounded by some breaking news... A fossil is missing from Research Centre of Jurassica! Sir David has sent us information about this... stay tuned to see if we can help to solve this mystery!