



## The Queen's Hat by Steve Antony. Comparing Countryside, Towns and Cities.

June 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new term.

As you already know from the recent trip letter, the first two weeks of this term we are finishing off our dinosaur themed topic because we have activities that we didn't manage to fit in last term. This week and next week we are exploring fun dinosaur poems and thinking about a going on a 'dinosaur hunt'. The culmination to our topic is a trip to Brooke beach to hunt for dinosaur footprints, fossils and bones. We will be accompanied by a local palaeontologist who will be talking to the children about the Isle of Wight's fantastic Jurassic coastline, its dinosaurs and fossils.

I am trying to put together an updated letter about our trip which explains the final arrangements and minor changes. The children are really looking forward to the trip and we hope they will get a lot out of it. Once again thank you for your support with this, as the logistics of getting the children to and from the beach are proving to be quite tricky. Just so you are aware, if the weather forecast turns out to be unfavourable then the trip will need to be postponed or changed.

After the dinosaur themed topic we are moving on to a new topic linked to the text diver - 'The Queens Hat' by Steve Antony, where the children will expand their knowledge and practise skills under the theme of 'Countryside, towns and cities. The children will also learn about their heritage, royalty and significant events nationally and locally. At the end of the term we hope to bring our topic to a close by dressing up as kings/queens/princes or princesses and having a garden party to celebrate. If you have favourite books at home connected with this theme we are more than happy to read and share them in class, so please bring them in.

Last term we introduced our class monitor jobs to look after and tidy the areas of the classroom. I am pleased to see the children taking on these new roles so well and taking responsibility for our class and its resources. Everyone is keen to earn reward stickers and take their turn being a monitor. This has been positive step towards developing a sensible, mature and responsible attitude in our class.

The 'Guided Reading System' in the class is really working well and the children are showing more independence organising their books into the daily reading box. **Thank you for helping your child to bring in their book on the correct reading day. It really helps our reading system to run more efficiently, which in turn benefits the children.** This week and next week we are assessing the children's reading and spelling of key words. These will be practised in class and also sent home as a homework task. This week I will be checking that the reading groups are correct. Some children may need to change their reading day so that they are with a group of children of similar ability. I will send out a new reminder of all reading days if necessary.

If your child forgets to bring their reading wallet into school, please try and return it on the following day so that we can give out new books to read at home. We encourage all children to read daily at home so that they make steady progress and gain pace and fluency in their reading.

Next week we have the phonics screening tests for year 1. The children have worked hard on their phonics and are reading all sorts of nonsense words with ease. If you could practise these over the weekend for



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one last time it will be beneficial for your child. We have kept this very low key in class to avoid any anxiety. The children are quite familiar with the process and taking the reading tasks in their stride.

Thank you for all the homework support you provided last term. This will continue to be given out on a Friday and will alternate with a Literacy task one week followed by a Numeracy task the next. Now and again your child may have homework connected to the topic theme. Please can you return the homework in your child's book bag by the following Wednesday.

P.E day is on a Tuesday and Friday so please can you ensure your child has a P.E kit in school for this day.

Thank you to all reception parents that have returned the 'wow' stars to show what the children have achieved at home over the past week. It is a very useful tool for child centred planning and it also informs my assessments for the early learning goals. I also enjoy finding out about things that interest them out of school.

### A few friendly reminders:

- Please bring reading wallets into school on your child's reading day.
- Thursday is an additional reading day with an adult, so please could you ensure reading wallets are also in school on this day.
- Pupils need a drink in class and should bring a labelled water bottle daily. Please can I ask that only water and no squash is sent in?
- If your child brings in money for a fruit snack please can you make sure it is in a labelled envelope or purse so that it is not lost.
- Please ensure your child has a hat in school for the warmer weather to protect them from the sun.
- If your child needs sun cream during the hot weather can you ensure that it is applied before school.
- **PE** will be on a **Tuesday** and **Friday** so please make sure that they have their PE kit in school for this day. Thank you!
- **Homework** – will be reading and a weekly English or Mathematics task.
- **Children need to be on the playground for 8.40am** please for learning in the classroom to commence at **8:45.**

Do let me know if you have any questions, Kind regards, Mrs Evans