



# FS & KS1 School

## Year 1 Newsletter No. 7

### 9th November 2017



Theme: *What's the Weather Like?* Science Topic: *Seasonal Changes and Plants*

Term 1.2 Learning Challenge: *Where do the leaves go in winter?*



### Will our school garden look the same all year round?

We looked carefully at the plants, trees and flowers in our school grounds and gardens. We noted how they appear now, in November, Autumn. We used our knowledge of the seasons to discuss whether we think our garden will continue to look the same over the year as the weather changes. We made predictions and decided what are the best ways to record our observations.

**How you can help us with our Learning Challenge at home:** Begin to take notice of the daily temperature forecasts for greater Cairo. Discuss all the various ways we can find out 'What the weather's like'. Weather apps on mobile phones are probably the most popular way today!

### English ~ The Tiny Seed Story Writing

We used our text, *The Tiny Seed*, to work on composing sentences for story writing. We wrote speech bubbles for the story and wrote letters as the *Tiny Seed* to show we understood the events of the story.



### English ~ Phonics

We learnt the new graphemes **ay ou ie ea**. We see these in words such as *day, cloud, pie, seat*. Keep an eye out for these new graphemes in your reading books.

We also learnt to read and spell the High Frequency Words - *as, no, mum, one, them*.

**Homework:** *Real and Nonsense Words for 'ay'* and practise your first spelling list. Remember handwriting matters!

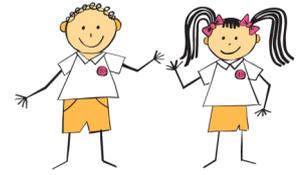
### Maths ~ Position, Direction, Measurement

We revised positional language and common words used when talking about direction: *above, backwards, around, forwards, above, below, through*.

We measured and compared lengths of classroom objects. We know the difference between length and height and how to measure and compare them.

**Homework:** *Directions, Movement and Positional Language*; read or listen to the instructions and mark them on the grid to see where you get to!





This week we have sent our first spelling lists home. Children in Year 1 love the 'grown up' feel of taking a weekly spelling list, however, it is important that parents understand the reasoning behind spellings in Year 1 so that it remains a fun and rewarding part of children's learning and does not become a 'chore'. Here are some points to keep in mind:

- **Words in our spelling lists are chosen to practise the phonics focus of the previous week.** For example, the words *tray* and *leaf* are included this week to reinforce learning the 'ay' and 'ea' sounds; giving children the confidence to try using these sounds in their writing. Children should be practising their 'sounding out' skills to spell the words, though some children will have memorised the spelling which is fine also.
- **Teachers will discuss the meaning of words, however, Year 1 spellings are not vocabulary lists.** The type of spelling lists where children need to put words into meaningful sentences to show understanding will come later in their schooling. The first step now in Year 1 is for children to explore word building in a structured way and begin to identify simple, regular spelling patterns. For example the 'ai' sound is always in the middle of words - rain, pail, stain.
- **Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check:** This is the method we would like children to use when practising. Checking their own spelling is a very important **skill** as we begin asking children to edit their writing. Mistakes are fine as long as we learn from them!
- **\* High Frequency Words (HFW's):** Some words (usually at the end of the list) will be marked by an asterisk (\*). This indicates that they are High Frequency Words which children need to learn to spell correctly from memory. Some can be sounded out phonetically (*and, not*) and others cannot (*the, was*). After being sent home as a spelling word, we expect children to spell these words correctly and quickly in their writing across all curriculum areas.
- **Keep it fun!** Magnetic letters, whiteboards, iPads, flashcards, online games and board games (Scrabble!) are all ways to enjoy spelling practice. 10 minutes a day is more than enough to keep your child on track.
- **Communicate with your child's class teacher:** If you have any concerns or queries please contact your child's class teacher for support and guidance.



Spelling practice  
doesn't have to  
be B-O-R-I-N-G

# Phase 5 Real and Nonsense Words for ay

There are many different words spelt with 'ay'.

Can you spot which words are real and which are nonsense below?

Fill in your key with a different colour for real words and nonsense words then colour in the correct boxes below.

Key

Real Words

Nonsense Words

clayer	spray	play	zlay
may	vray	hayon	clay
chay	stray	day	tay
crayon	blay	dayb	tray
	nayt	stay	

I found this:



Easy



Challenging



I needed help

## Directions, Movement and Positional Language

				
				
				
				
<b>START</b>				

1. Put your pencil or marker on start. Take 3 steps right. Where are you?  
\_\_\_\_\_

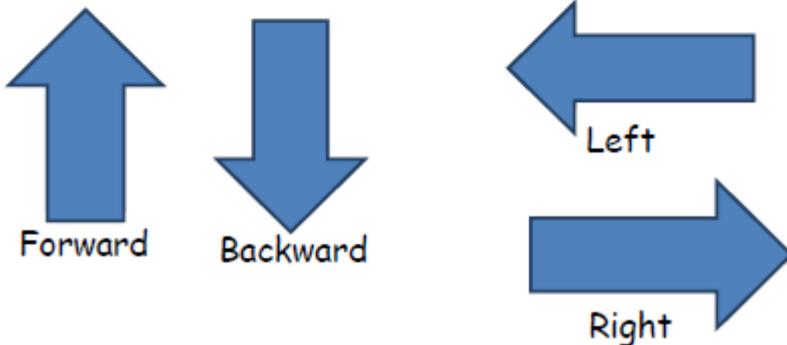
2. Go back to start. Take 1 step right and 2 steps forward. Where are you? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Go back to start. Take 2 steps right and 1 step forward. Where are you? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Go back to start. Take 2 steps right and 4 steps forward. Where are you? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Go back to start. Take 2 steps right. 3 steps forward and 1 step right. Where are you? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Go back to start. Take 2 steps right, 4 steps forward and 2 steps right. Where are you? \_\_\_\_\_



Extension: Give your partner instructions to get to these places...

1. The party
2. The bus stop
3. The beach

Remember, you can't go through the aliens!

I found this:



Easy



Challenging



I needed help