



# News from the Nest

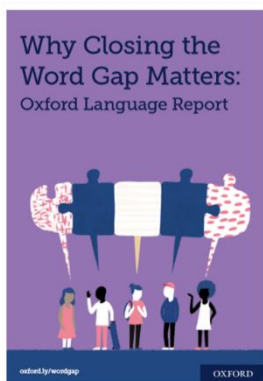
8<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Parents,

I hope you all enjoyed the Christmas holiday and have had a good start to 2019.

Each year all the staff and children at school make a "Wren's Nest New Year's resolution". We build on this resolution during the course of the year through assemblies and in lessons. This year our resolution will help our children to develop their vocabulary and improve chances of both academic success and to help them become good communicators, successful and happy in life. Our resolution is to:

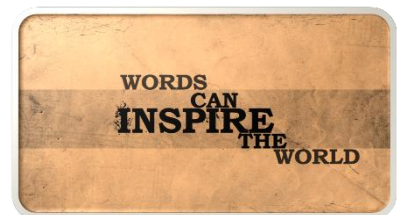
**"To learn and use new words".**



As adults we take it for granted that we can use a wide range of vocabulary and that we can use words to talk, read, write and understand the world around us. There has been lots of research over the past few years that shows that children's success is linked to the breadth and confidence with which they can use words. A recent report "*Why Closing the Word Gap Matters: Oxford Language Report, 2018*" highlights the importance of words. It says "*Vocabulary is intrinsically linked to academic success. Not having enough words 'in the bank' affects progress in school, impacts on children's attainment and also their enjoyment of school.*"

At Wren's Nest we constantly reflect on our teaching practice and how we help the children to learn. We focus on the importance of key skills, helping children to become good readers, writers and mathematicians. Over the next three years we are going to respond to the recent educational research and ensure that we make widening children's vocabulary a key part of their learning. Our phonics and Literacy & Language programmes already prioritise enriching children's vocabulary and we are hoping to extend this to every part of the curriculum.

We will all be familiar with some famous people who have used the power of words to inspire - I shared some of these examples with the children in assembly on Monday. Many had heard the Queen's speech to the nation on Christmas Day, and I also shared some of the famous quotes from Winston Churchill and Martin Luther King.



I am sure as parents you will wholeheartedly endorse the importance of our New Year's resolution with pupils challenged to "**learn and use new words**" as I know you will all want your children to be successful in their education and good, social communicators. We want children to leave Wren's Nest ready to get the best out of their secondary education and the world beyond.

So we welcome an exciting 2019 new year ahead of us!

  
Headteacher



We are going  
to become  
Wren's Nest  
Word Wizards!

## Holiday Dates

**Half Term:** Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Children return to school after half term on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February and break up for **Easter** on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April

**Teacher Training Days:** School will be closed to children on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February.



## Had a new phone for Christmas?

If you do have a new phone please remember to let the school office have your new number. Thank you!



Free childcare  
for eligible  
two year olds



## 'Time for Twos' from January 2019

Was your child 2 years old before 31<sup>st</sup> December?  
Are you interested in free education for your 2-year old?

Please ask at the school office for more details.

## Christmas Fayre - Thank you!

Thanks to your generosity we raised £2,020 at the Christmas Fayre. This money will be put to good use supporting our enrichment programme which is enjoyed by all children.



## Parents' Evening:

**Advance notice:** Parents' Evening will be held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019.

# Snow!



Hopefully we will avoid snow this winter! However January and February are the two months when statistically we are most likely to get snowfalls.

We try to avoid closing school unless we feel it really is unsafe for travel and for school to function safely. If we do have to close due to heavy snow we will post a notice on the front page of our school website:

[www.wrens-nest.dudley.sch.uk](http://www.wrens-nest.dudley.sch.uk)

We will also post on our Twitter page:



<https://twitter.com/wrensnestschool>

Any closure would also be announced as part of the local radio, snow line school closure news.

**BLACK COUNTRY RADIO** *It's all about you!*  
102.5 FM • DAB • ONLINE  
[blackcountryradio.co.uk](http://blackcountryradio.co.uk)

**heart**



**Important Date!** Y6 SAT national tests take place during the week starting Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2019. All Y6 must be in school during this week - please do not book holidays during this time. Thank you.