



First Grade Newsletter Miss Earle's Class



Note From Miss Earle

On Friday, your child will be bringing home a Santa Suit to decorate. More detailed instructions are attached to the suit. Please try to have those completed and returned on or before **Wednesday, December 6th**.

This week, you can access our **December Book Order** pages. Please go online to order. Go to <https://orders.scholastic.com/GVXR4>. This will connect you to our class ordering page. Please have your order completed by Friday, December 1st. You can view the digital flyers at <https://clubs.scholastic.com/all-flyers>. If your order needs to remain a Christmas surprise, just let me know.

As the holiday season approaches, many parents like to get gifts for their child's teacher. Of course, this is definitely not required. Personally, I'd rather that you got a gift for our classroom instead of just a gift for me. Lotions, candles, and sweets are nice. However, I'd love it even more if I got things for our classroom. You'd be surprised how happy it makes me to get wipes, tissues, glue sticks or books. I especially love gift cards that allow me to purchase the exact books or materials we need in our classroom. ☺ Please don't feel pressured to get me a gift. I know money can be tight. However, if you're planning to get a gift, please make it one for our classroom instead of just one for me.

If you still have an "All About Me" poster, please return it as soon as possible. If you need a new one, just let me know.

Take Home Readers need to be returned on **Tuesday!** Make sure they are signed off or the volunteers will not change the books. Be sure to sign the correct bag number!

Library Books need to be returned on **Wednesday!**

School Spirit Days are on Friday! Wear school colors or school shirts.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, let me know.

Dates to Remember

11/27	Shark Readers Meeting 9:00am
12/1	Book Orders Due
12/6	Santa Suits Due
12/8	Fun Friday: Christmas Festive Day!
12/12	Acadience Reading Testing - Please have your child in attendance!
12/13	Pink Shirt Day #Stand4Kind
12/19	Class Christmas Party 12:30-1:30pm
12/20	Christmas Sing-In for Parents 1:00pm
12/21	Minimal Day
12/22	Teacher Work Day - No School
12/25-1/5	Christmas Break - No School
1/22	Acadience Math Testing - Please have your child in attendance!

Reading

Our reading groups will be applying our phonics skill from before Thanksgiving (digraphs: ch & sh) to reading a decodable text. If students have already mastered that skill, they may receive a leveled book to read. Also, I know it's easy to get distracted this time of year, but please **READ** with your child. Take-home readers are an easy option, but anything will do. This is vital to their growth in reading!

During shared reading, we'll be talking and reading about plants and how they grow. While reading different texts, we'll discuss how good readers make and confirm predictions. We make predictions about what will come next to help us better connect and pay attention to what we are reading. Then, we continue reading

to find out whether our predictions were correct. We'll also talk about how to retell a fiction story in order by using temporal words that keep things in sequence (ie: first, next, then, finally).

Heart Words: green grow pretty should together water

Word Work/Phonics

We will be introducing more consonant digraphs (th, wh & ck). Students will identify, read and write words that start and end with these digraphs (in isolation and in passages). A consonant digraph has 1 sound spelled with 2 consonants side by side. We'll learn this new skill while still practicing closed syllable words. Remember, closed syllables have 1 vowel letter followed by 1 or more consonants and the vowel sound is short (ie: thud, moth, wham, shock, etc.).

Writing

We finally finished our handwriting practice!! It took a long time, but it was worth it. We want to use correct formation any time we are writing. If your student still struggles with forming certain letters correctly, have him/her practice at home. You can use the handwriting guide in your child's blue homework folder to help you.

During Writer's Workshop, we will learn about present-tense verbs. Verbs are words that show action. Present-tense verbs tell about an action that is happening right now. When present-tense verbs tell about one noun, it ends in -s (unless the naming word is "I" or "you"). For example, "Ike thumps the drum." When present-tense verbs tell about more than one noun, it does not end in -s. For example, "Jan and Dave swim in the lake." Tricky!! Basically, we want students to know that present-tense verbs might end in -s.

Plus, we'll spend most of the week doing some holiday-themed writing activities.

Math

We are working on solving subtraction word problems. We want students to find the answer, write a correct equation, and show **HOW** they got the answer. There are many strategies that can be used to solve story problems (fingers, tallies, pictures, number line, etc.), but it is often difficult to show **HOW** a problem was solved. Even if your child has a good understanding of subtraction or is quick with math facts, he/she may still struggle showing his/her work on a story problem. Have your child practice solving some subtraction equations or story problems. See if they can show you **how** they solved it **on paper**. They need to show their work (draw pictures, fingers, etc.) and label with numbers to show how they counted or write what they did with words (detailed explanation). They are not allowed to just say that they "thought about it" or "used their brains." 😊

Plus, we'll extend our understanding of basic subtraction to larger numbers. We want to learn how to use 10 as a landmark number. For example, when starting with a teen number like 12, I want to subtract what is needed to make 10. Then, I can use my knowledge of ten friends to finish solving the problem. I know that seems drawn out, but it really helps the brain to make those connections to landmark numbers.

We'll continue to fit in our fact pages as time allows. This week, we are working on -4. In order to meet our goal of doing a complete page in 5 minutes, we are timing each row for a minute at a time. Usually, we can finish a row in a minute. I know that the more we do it the better we get. Watch for these papers to come home with your student. Feel free to correct any wrong answers or simply finish the problems if necessary.

Find $12 - 7$.
$12 - \underline{2} = 10$
$10 - 5 = \underline{5}$
$12 - 7 = \underline{5}$

