

Year 1 Autumn Curriculum Newsletter

Let me start with a warm 'hello' and to say that I am really looking forward to teaching the children in year 1! I hope that you all had a good summer holiday and are all refreshed ready to go. I (Mr Wright) will be the year 1 teacher with Mrs Boon as our learning support assistant. Mrs Cerone will cover my PPA on a Thursday afternoon.



Curriculum

During the Autumn Term we will continue your child's education through continuous provision. This follows the format used in EYFS, where the children will have a range of learning activities to choose from during the day, including art, role-play, construction and investigations. There will be daily Phonics sessions following on from the EYFS scheme of work. The children will learn the rest of the 40+ phonemes and use them to decode words and help write words. **English** and **Maths** skills will be taught daily through whole class sessions and small group work led by the adults. As we move towards the Spring Term children will be ready and expected to work at tables as a whole class and as we move further into the year we will introduce more formal style lessons.

In **English** we will focus on pencil grips, forming letters correctly and sentence building, including punctuation and finger spaces. The children will be expected to talk about their writing and begin to check their writing makes sense. In **Maths** we will be learning all about numbers and their values, comparing numbers, beginning to add and subtract and identifying shapes and the associated vocabulary.

Our **Science** themes for this term are 'Identifying Animals' and 'Identifying Plants'. The children will be observing, identifying, comparing, classifying and describing UK plants. They will become familiar with different types of plants and use the terms deciduous, evergreen, stem, flower and blossom. The identifying animals lessons include learning about mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and fish. The children will think about the needs of different pets and use the terms carnivore, herbivore and omnivore.



Topic

For the autumn term we will be focusing on **History** and learning about The Great Fire of London. The children will learn about the key events of the Great Fire of London, and help them develop an understanding of the ways in which we can find out about the past through primary sources. In doing so, this unit also provides an introduction to Samuel Pepys and his infamous diary. The children will have the opportunity to increase their awareness of the past by comparing and contrasting past and present-day London, as well as looking at how life was different in the 17th century. Knowledge Organisers for some subject areas will be sent home which have some key vocabulary and information that your child can share with you.



Reading

Children will have a reading wallet that they need to bring into school every day. They will have a reading diary for you to complete at home so we can monitor and celebrate their reading at home. The children will initially have 2 books. One book will relate to the book band that they are on and the second book will relate to the phonics scheme we use. The adults in school will read with the children regularly and will move children on to other books when they are ready. The books related to the phonics scheme will generally be changed every week. The children do benefit from reading the same book more than once. We recommend that the children read more than 3 times at home in a week.

In **Art** the children will be completing a unit called Fireworks to link in with our History topic. The children will create unique artworks using a range of media and materials. In **Design and Technology** the children will complete a unit of work called Moving Pictures. This unit gives children opportunities to develop their understanding of mechanisms and follow instructions on to make different types of mechanisms, such as levers, wheels and sliders,

PE units of work will take place involving Multi-Skills, Yoga and Dance. All of these will enable children to develop their balance, coordination, movement and control. During **Computing** sessions the children will be learning about online safety and start to create drawing and art on a laptop using a creative programme. The children will be singing in **Music** lessons and beginning to use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes. Make different sounds with their voices and instruments and identify changes in sounds. Our **Religious Education** unit of work is called 'What does it mean to belong to a faith community?' This investigation enables pupils to think about belonging. They will learn about how religious people show they belong to their faith community. They will learn about ways babies are welcomed in religions and the promises made at weddings. They will think about their own network of belonging and how we all belong to someone.

Homework

Homework will be given out on a Thursday, to be returned the following Wednesday. There will be a separate letter sent out regarding homework.



PE days for the first half term will be **Monday (indoor) and Tuesday (outdoor)**. Children should have both an indoor and outdoor PE kit in school comprising of:

Indoor PE: White T-shirt, Black/dark shorts, Black pumps - that fit

Outdoor PE: White T-shirt, Black/dark shorts or tracksuit bottoms, Trainers - that fit, a Hoodie or sweatshirt.

All PE kits should be labelled (so we can return it to the correct person should anything become lost), in separate bags and they go in your child's locker.

We would like to remind you that no jewellery should be worn for PE. Ears that are newly pierced may be covered for the first 6 weeks. After this time, children must be able to remove earrings themselves or taken out in the morning at home on PE days. This is part of our health and safety policy for all children.

Over the year we will send out login information for various online learning platforms that we use to support children's learning in school, these are accessible at home too. If we were to go into another lockdown situation you will receive details of how to log into a home-schooling platform called Seesaw.



It is expected that children come in through the classroom door in the mornings **by themselves** and that they learn to put their own coat/bags in their lockers and hand in any letters/reading books themselves. This will help with their independence and allow for a smooth start to the day. Reminders will be given to children and for the first few weeks and we accept that some children may need initial support to help this routine. Parents may send in a note from home with their child for the teacher but we ask that parents do not come into the classroom in the mornings, as this is an important time for the adults to settle the children in and initiate a classroom routine. We will have a notice board in the classroom window for updating parents/carers with information/reminders - so please look out for it when you pick up/drop off your child.

The children will be collected at the end of the day from outside the classroom doors. We expect a parent to pick up their child. Please make us aware of any other family members/adults who might be picking up your child on a regular basis and you must inform the office of any changes to pick-up arrangements on the day.

We have a sink in our classroom with a drinking water tap but we will be asking children not to share/use plastic cups to begin with so a named water bottle will be needed. A separate drink may be required for lunch. You may bring in a healthy/fruit based snack for morning breaktime as toast will not be available this term. Please remember **children are not permitted to bring toys into school.**

Children are expected to come into school in their full school uniform, however we will have all of the windows and doors open in the classroom/school so it is essential that children have **WARM** layers to keep them comfortable in the classroom.

Thank you for your continued support. If you wish to discuss anything with me concerning your child, please don't hesitate to arrange a convenient appointment.

Thanks
Mr Wright & Mrs Boon