

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.



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 lead 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. We will be writing for a range of reasons (stories, letters, and instructions). 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 first half of the autumn term our **Geography** topic is 'What would Dora the Explorer find exciting about our village?' We will be finding out the village, country and continent we live in. We will find out where the UK is on a world map, explore our capital city, before finding out more about our local area. In the second half term we will be learning about 'Life in the North Pole'. We will learn about arctic life, arctic explorers, animals and more! More information and Knowledge Organisers will be sent home.



Reading

Children will be asked to put their plastic wallet (containing their reading book and diary) in the reading box each morning, so that we can see which books need to be changed. Please feel free to write any comments or questions you may have in here. We expect that all children should read at home a minimum of 5 times per week, this really benefits their progress, but if they want to read more than this then please do! The children do benefit from reading the same book more than once.

In **Art** the children will be completing a unit called Earth Art to link in with our Geography topics. The children will create unique artwork using natural materials like rocks, twigs and leaves. In **Design and Technology** the children will complete a unit of work called Playgrounds. In this unit the children will make their own models of playground equipment by first exploring different types of playground equipment, looking at how they move and what they are made of.

In **PE** the children will have the opportunity to participate in 6 weeks of Yoga with an instructor. Other PE units of work will take place involving Multi-Skills, Gymnastics 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 'How and why do we celebrate sacred and special times?' This unit enables children to learn from different religious and spiritual ways of life about Easter and Pesach (passover) and/or Eid-ul-fitr.

Homework

Homework will be given out on a Thursday or Friday, to be returned the following Wednesday. The tasks given will relate to work we are doing in class (where possible). Please try and sit with your child while they complete their homework. This will boost their self-esteem, create a positive link between home and school and you can pick up on any misconceptions the children may have. There may be a reward for the children who regularly complete their homework and hand it in on time.



PE

PE days for the first half term will be **Thursday and Friday**. 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, Hoodie/Sweatshirt

All PE kit 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.



It is expected that children come in through the school 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.

Toast money is to be paid up front for the whole half term. Please see the office regarding any queries.

As we have a sink in the classroom suitable for drinking water, we will supply plastics cups for the children to help themselves to drinks. If you wish to send in a water bottle that is fine, however we do not encourage fruit juices or flavoured drinks to be brought into the classroom. Please remember children are **not permitted to bring toys into school**.

Finally, there will be a **brief meeting for parents/carers** of children in Year 1 on **Friday 20th September at 3.30pm in the year 1 classroom**. This will give parents the opportunity to see their child's new teacher and to go through some of the expectations for the school year. Mrs Boon has offered to stay behind and look after the children in the year 2 classroom. Please note, this is not an extensive meeting and some of the information is already in this newsletter, so please don't worry if you cannot make it. We are happy to answer any questions you may have at your convenience.

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

Thanks

Mr Wright & Mrs Boon