

Friday 14th September 2018

Dear Parents

Welcome to Year 1!

We hope you have all had a lovely Summer and we are glad to see all of the children back, ready to work and enjoy their time in Year 1. I will be working closely with Mrs Archer, who will be our Teaching Assistant each morning and Mrs Wager, who will teach the class all day on a Thursday. This routine will be of great benefit to the children as they settle into Year 1 as we will be able to offer them a lot of adult support as they adapt to their new routines and ways of working in Key Stage one.

The topics to be covered this term are as follows;

- Religious Education: Thanking God for Nature
- Science: Ourselves - we will be focusing on parts of the body, our senses, growing and changing and healthy eating
- Computing: Let's Create: we will be exploring digital texts, learning how to log on to the computer independently, and exploring computers and devices in school.
- P.S.H.E: Good to be me!
- Physical Education: Gymnastics and ball skills.
- Art & Design: Self-portrait and Fireworks.
- Design & Technology: Parts of the body and Fruit and Vegetables
- Music: Performing skills - Controlling sounds through singing and playing
- Geography: Where do I live - we will be looking at basic map skills, geographical vocabulary and local and familiar features.
- History - Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder plot

In English we will be looking at stories with predicable phrasing, reciting familiar poems by heart and writing a recount based on a personal experience. We will continue to work on letter formation and using capital letters and full stops.

In Mathematics, we will be covering number formation, exploring number bonds to 10, recognising place value of tens and ones in teen numbers. Begin to recognise and know the value of different denominations of coins, linking to counting in 2s, 5s and 10s.

In Letters and Sounds we will be revisiting known phonics and spelling patterns as well as new phonemes. We will work towards learning to read 'Alien Words' ready for the phonics screening towards the end of the academic year.

Physical Education is an essential part of the curriculum and we will have these sessions on a Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning. Please ensure your child has their P.E. kit in school on these days, as they all like to be able to join in with the sessions and this will enable them to access the recommended minimum of two hours per week of high quality physical activity.

We will be introducing Forest School into the Year 1 curriculum this year and this will take place on a Wednesday morning. The children will be split into two groups, which will alternate each week. We will be using the schools new outdoor area to make links between other curriculum subjects and enhance the children's learning.

Your child will bring their reading book and reading record home each evening. Please try to encourage your child to read at home in order for them to make further progress throughout the year. Please also remember to record any home reading in their blue record so that we are aware of how often they are reading at home. Children are required to put their reading book and reading record in the small basket on their colour tables every morning - this enables us to keep track of how often children are reading at home. The children will read constantly in school, through English sessions, Letters and Sounds work, small group guided reading and individual reading with the class teacher and teaching assistants. However, we do not always have the opportunity to hear your child read their reading scheme book and often select other materials to use within the classroom. Therefore, it is not always marked in their reading record book that they have read but we can assure you that this is happening on a daily basis in one form or another. It is often more beneficial for the children to read an unfamiliar text with the class teacher in order for their progress to be assessed fully. Reading scheme books for home are often easier than the texts used in class for confidence building and consolidation.

We will be starting homework a bit later in the term, and the children will bring handwriting/spellings home on a Monday. Please help your child to learn their spellings in as many fun and practical ways as possible and encourage neat and correct letter formation! They will also bring a Homework folder home each Thursday. This will have a short activity inside which is generally linked to our current English, Maths or topic work. Please ensure the homework is completed and returned the following Monday for an early-bird house point (or Tuesday at the latest). This will ensure we have time to mark the work and provide a new piece of homework for the following Thursday.

It is often useful for you to help your child with their homework as this will show you what they have been covering during the week and may give you ideas for extra activities to try at home. If you need to assist your child in completing the tasks set, please write a quick note at the bottom of the page to let us know what support they were offered. This will then help us in assessing what they have remembered and what needs to be covered further in class. Some children may need you to scribe their ideas for them - this is fine too!

We have a class mascot named Billy Bear who looks out for and promotes positive behaviour in class. Billy does have the opportunity to go home each weekend with one child. This may be decided at random or is sometimes used as a reward for a child who has worked particularly hard during the week or behaved particularly well. We do try to rotate this fairly around the class so that everyone has a turn at some point in the year. Billy will come home with a small bag of clothes (which you are welcome to add to if you desire as parents and children have done so in the past!) and also a journal. The journal will act as an additional piece of homework for that weekend and has full instructions in the front.

Please ensure the journal, Billy and his belongings are well cared for and returned the following Monday morning as he may be required during the week within lessons.

We have a regular show and tell time for the children every Friday afternoon. To make this manageable a small group of children per week will be able to bring in something from home to show the rest of the class. Please see the timetable below.

Week 1 7th September	Week 2 14th September	Week 3 21st September	Week 4 28th September	Week 5 5th October
Amelia-Mae	Max	Freya	Henry	Hollie
Zachary	Dharya	Nathan	Kye	Lila
Johnny	Harry	Ava H	Delphi	Jack
Emerae	Marnie	India	Isabelle	Alice
Demi	Oliver	Riley	Amelie	Christopher
Auburn	Ava M	Katie	Chad	

Finally, we are currently creating a 'Doctors Surgery' for our role-play area to fit in with some of our topic work. It is looking a little sparse! If you have any unwanted dressing-up clothes or role play toys and accessories which may be of benefit to the children in this area, please let us know.

We hope this gives you an outline of the plans for the autumn term in Year 1. We are sure the children will all have a successful and happy year. If you have any questions or would like some further information about the year, please do not hesitate to come and see one of us. We look forward to meeting you all.

Best wishes,

Sophie Craddock
Year 1 Class Teacher