



Year 1's Newsletter

Autumn Term 2019



Welcome back and a happy new school year to you all! The children have returned to school happy, excited and eager to learn! Thank you for supporting them through their transition into Key Stage 1.

At the beginning of the year, the organisation of Year 1 builds on experiences within foundation stage. There are lots of opportunities for the children to engage in their own "self-initiated" activities as well as "teacher-led" and "independent" working groups. We will, however, gently ease them out of play-based activities towards more teacher-led and independent tasks throughout the year and as the curriculum becomes more demanding.

Phonics & English

The children will continue to develop their skills in speaking and listening, reading, writing and spelling.

Lots of opportunities will be provided for children to read and retell stories and express their opinions of characters, settings and plot. They will focus on writing in sentences, spelling key words correctly and attempting to spell new words using phonic knowledge.

They will develop correct letter formation through frequent handwriting sessions and the use of capital letters in sentences. The children will continue to develop their knowledge of letters and sounds through a structured phonics programme called Read Write Inc. Please ensure you support reading at home as we have found it really helps the children. Your child will also be given weekly spellings to practise at home. We also have a weekly guided reading session focusing on comprehension of shared stories.

Maths

This term the children will develop their knowledge of number and place value. They will focus on developing accuracy in counting forwards and backwards in 1s and 10s to 100. The children will also develop mental maths skills by finding 1 more and 1 less. Number formation is another key area of focus this term. We will also explore shape by recognising and naming 2D and 3D shapes.

Science

The Science topics to be covered this term are 'Everyday Materials' and 'My Body'. Investigation is a key area of development and the children will use their knowledge to develop their skills and understanding.

R.E

A newsletter outlining this curriculum area and the ways in which it can be supported at home is being e-mailed to you. It is a core curriculum area and provides lots of opportunities to develop skills and understanding across the curriculum. We also have daily collective worship to encourage and nurture spiritual development.

Home Learning

The children will receive a homework menu which includes a variety of activities. Children must choose and complete two activities before half term. A copy of the homework menu can be found on our school website. The children will be bringing home a book suitable for their reading level as part of their structured reading. Please read with your children at home every night and sign their record book. Reading books will be changed on a Monday and a Thursday (as well as other days if they have been read).

History and Geography

We begin the term with a Geography focus 'Our Local Area'. We will be identifying familiar places in our local area, recognising basic map skills and using simple compass directions. After half-term, we will explore the history of 'The Gunpowder Plot,' learning about Guy Fawkes and why the Gunpowder Plot happened.

Design Technology & Art

We begin by linking this to our topic work and drawing/painting pictures and models related to this. These subjects will be taught in the shared area where the children have the use of many different resources.

As well as lots of opportunities for painting and drawing to help with our class displays, the children will investigate different materials and use these to produce interesting works of art!

PSHE

The children will develop their understanding of new beginnings as well as feelings and friends.

Music

The children will have music sessions with Mr Harbisher from Tees Valley Music Service. They will learn to sing new songs and hymns as well as using a range of percussion instruments.

P.E

PE days are Wednesday and Friday. This term we will be focusing on Dance and Games. We work with a specialist PE teacher (Mr Sheahan) who will lead the PE session on a Friday.

General

Mrs Ellison is our Teaching Assistant throughout the week. We visit the school Library on Friday. Children may loan a book for a week. Please could you check that all of your child's school uniform (including PE kit and water bottle) is clearly labelled with their names.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Otherwise I look forward to seeing you at parents evening in October.

Many thanks, Miss Carnaby.