



## Autumn 1 Year One newsletter

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Hello and welcome to Year 1. I hope you have had an enjoyable summer. The children have certainly had lots of exciting stories to share.

I am excited to be teaching Year 1 and getting to know you and your children so we can build an environment where we can all work together so your child can grow in confidence, with a love of learning, and a determination to be the best person they can be.

*"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn" - Benjamin Franklin*

Here is an overview of the curriculum coverage for the first half term.

### Literacy

We will continue with the Jolly Phonics Programme, and supplement it with the introduction of Jolly Grammar. Work covered is as follows:

- Using the terms fiction/ non-fiction, and identifying some features of a non-fiction book.
- Understanding why instructions must be clear and correctly ordered. Reading and following a set of simple instructions and writing a set of instructions and using language to signal chronological order.
- Blending sounds together to form words and segmenting sounds in words to write.
- Revision of alphabet and digraph sounds learned in YR.
- Introduction of new sounds (alternative diagraphs) 'ow', 'ew', 'ou' and 'oi'
- Identifying short vowel sounds within words.
- Recognising and writing capital letters.
- Developing an understanding of sentences. By understanding that words within a sentence must make sense and when to use capital letters and full stops.
- *Proper Nouns*- Developing the children's understanding that there are different types of words, and that each type has a name.
- Developing children's understanding of common nouns.

We will be using the wonderful story 'The Snail and the Whale' by Julia Donaldson as a focus text. We will be writing our own versions of the story, a recount based on a fictional first person experience, post cards, a news report and writing speech bubbles to infer the snail's thoughts. As well as creating a 'story map,' and using drama to collaborate all the children's learning and ideas on the story! Through lots of discussion the children will have opportunities to express their views of the story and their likes and dislikes, giving reasons for their answers.

### **Reading:**

I will hear individual children and groups of children read in weekly Guided Reading sessions. Please continue to support your child by listening to them read and reading to them as often as possible, using a wide range of books (not just the scheme books sent home).

### **Numeracy:**

- Count up to 20 objects (match number to object); estimate and count up to 30 objects; count on and back and order numbers to 10; recognise domino/dice arrays without counting; identify a number 1 more (next number in count)
- Find pairs that make 5; subitise to 5; find pairs that make 6; subitise to 6; find pairs that make 10; subitise fingers to 10; match pairs to 5, 6 and 10 to number sentences; find missing numbers in number sentences
- Double numbers 1 to 5; find 1 and 2 more; count back 1 and begin to find 1 less
- Recognise, name and describe squares, rectangles, circles and triangles; recognise basic line symmetry; sort 2D shapes according to their properties, using Venn diagrams and Carroll diagrams
- Read and write numbers and number-names to 20; compare and order numbers to 20; identify 1 more and 1 less; estimate sets of objects, count to check and order sets according to size; understand 0 as the empty set

### **Topic work:**

Before beginning our main topic over the first two weeks we will be following a unit of work on a theme that focuses on 'The art of learning'.

During this unit we will be focusing on tasks that explore positive learning.

The children will explore:

- How the brain works
- About the personal goals that help us to become better learners
- How to find out facts to prepare for a special challenge
- How to learn and practise skills for a special challenge
- How to record how well we are doing
- How to use what we have learned to create our own special challenge
- How to wake up our brain
- How to look after our brain

### **'What's it made of?'**

This unit of work will focus on grouping and classifying materials. In science we'll be finding out about what objects are made of and grouping them, how we use and can test different materials, and how materials are the same or different.

For the entry point to this topic on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September the children will go to 'The Look Out Discovery Centre' where The children will watch a science show 'Fire & Light' as well as explore, investigate and have fun with science, technology, engineering, art and maths. The children will see exhibits covering lots of the National Curriculum areas such as Light and colour, Forces and movement, Body and perception, Woodland and water and they will have opportunity to Build It! (a practical area where children work together to design and build a house with foam bricks)

There will be lots of discussions about the different materials that surround us and why they think some things are made of certain materials.

At the end of the topic on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 9.05am we will have an open classroom where you will be invited into the classroom to participate in a building activity with your child an opportunity to see what they have learnt about the properties of materials and to look at our 'Marvellous' material work and showcase the terms work. Although I am aware that everyone would love to see their child's work I understand that this is not always feasible with work commitments. If you are unable to attend the exit point/open classroom please let me know via the online pact book (email) and I will arrange for your child to take their work home so you can look through it together. We will also have a parents evening (date to follow) so you will also get an opportunity to see the classroom and your child's work.

#### **RE - What Is It Like To Live as a Jew?**

Our Topic is 'What is it like to live as a Jew' this topic will explore the beliefs and teaching of the Jewish faith and reflecting on what it means to be a Jew.

They will learn the meaning of symbols and artefacts that are valued and respected within the Jewish faith and reflect on their own beliefs and what is important to themselves and others.

**Art:** Mrs Forsyth will provide specialist teaching of Art lessons. In Year 1 this half term, we will be looking at still life. We will look at examples of how natural objects have been represented including, Caravaggio's iconic 'Fruit-basket' (1595). We will contrast realistic 17th century Dutch painting with more modern artists from the 19th and 20th century like Paul Cezanne.

We will create still life drawings using graphite sticks, watercolour pencils, pastels and chalk.

#### **Computing**

The children will be learning to code with Scratch. They will learn the SMART Rules for internet safety with Smartie the Penguin and use Dance Mat to become familiar with the keyboard.

**PE:** Year 1 will be participating in PE lessons on a Tuesday, with Mr Ellis and on a Thursday with Mrs McCarthy. This half term pupils will focus on movement and ball skills. They will link a range of movement patterns and find space. In addition the class will practice throwing and catching individually, dribble, pass and receive using different pieces of equipment. Skills will be applied through a range of co-operative games.

**Music with Mrs LePrevost:** In music this term we will be developing our understanding of the key musical elements through singing action songs and playing percussion instruments. We will explore using different voices, how to control dynamics and tempo as well as develop awareness of high/low pitch and pulse. We will also learn about timbre by examining the range of different percussion instruments we have and investigate how and why they make their distinctive sounds, to link in with their topic of 'What's it made of?'

## PSHE

We will be working on the Jigsaw scheme of work 'Being me in my world' - focusing on how to help others feel welcome, making our classroom and school a happy environment by how we act and take on board others feelings. As well as rights and responsibilities to learning and how we can work well with others. This will be achieved Through the use of Jigsaw Jack, games and discussion

## Other information

**Ramble - Year One's Class Toy Pet:** Every Friday a child is chosen to take home the class toy pet. The children are expected to look after him and make a note in his diary about what he did during the weekend. We encourage photos, pictures, post cards etc... This helps the children when sharing with the class. Please return on Monday morning so the children can share with the class.

## Home Learning:

Please return to school by the date specified and ensure it is named. Written work should be done in pencil and coloured in using colouring pencils if appropriate.

- **Book change** will take place once a week on Thursday afternoons.  
Please indicate by writing in your child's Reading Journal where they have read up to and if they need new books. **Books will only be changed if a note is written in the Reading Journal.**
- **Spelling Tests** will take place every Friday morning and reinforced the following week through the **dictation home learning exercise**. Please ensure that your child brings in their spelling cards every Friday so we can communicate their scores.
- **Dictation** - the purpose of the weekly dictation is to reinforce and practice the spelling pattern with the aim of fortifying that pattern to memory. It is therefore important that your child only completes the relevant week's dictation. If you are ahead, I will keep the card and book until it is needed and if you are behind I would like you to focus only on the dictation sentences that the children have just had a spelling test for. Dictation will be sent home on **Wednesday** and should be returned by the following **Tuesday** as per our Home Learning policy.

## Other home learning exercises:

- A Grammar activity (worksheet) will be sent home weekly.
- A topic activity (once a half term)
- Abacus maths homework is set every **Wednesday**. This will be an online maths activity to underpin what has been taught in class that week. Login details will be sent home. Please let me know if you have any issues accessing activities on Active learn.
- **All home learning exercises (except spellings) will be set on Wednesday** and must be completed by the following **Tuesday**.
- **Please note that no home learning exercises is set on the first week of school**

## Reminders

- **PE kit:** Please ensure your child has a fully named kit (including socks) and plimsolls that fit!
- **PE lessons will take place on Tuesdays & Thursdays.**
- Please ensure you continue to check your child's folder daily, as well as parent mail and online pact book as messages will not always be sent electronically.
- **Morning drop off- morning drop off is an extremely busy and important part of the day. Please remember to use the online PACT book to communicate play dates; any issues with the home learning exercises, PE kit details etc.... For more pressing issues of course feel free to speak to me, however the online PACT book is checked once a day and is the best way of communication even to arrange meetings about more serious concerns.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me after school, in person or via the online PACT book and I will be happy to discuss any issues you have.

Alisha McCarthy and Lynda Donlon  
Year 1 Class Team

**Diary dates:**

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September - meet the teacher - 6pm - Year 1 classroom**

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September - celebration assembly**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September - FOSMs welcome and AGM**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September - Trip to Look Out Discovery Centre - Packed lunch needed**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September - Volunteer induction- 2-3pm - parents/carers wanting to volunteer for trips or reading have to attend a volunteer induction session first.**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September - Volunteer induction- 5.30-6.30pm**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October - Harvest service at St Mary's Church**

**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October - Supporting your child with reading at home workshop - 1.30 - 3.00pm**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October - Supporting your child with reading at home workshop - 6 - 7.30pm**

**Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October - Exit point - open classroom - 9.05am (for a hour)**