

Year 1 Curriculum Newsletter – Spring 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. I hope you are rested after the holiday and ready for a new term of super learning. I am delighted with the progress that the children made last term and am confident your child will make even more progress this term.

English

Reading- Thank you for all the home reading you are doing with your child. It is lovely to read the comments you write in the reading record books. Daily home reading makes a huge difference to the progress your child makes in all areas of the curriculum. We use a variety of different strategies to help your child read and these are on the inside cover of the reading record. This term we are sending home reading journals as part of our year 1 homework. On the night you complete the reading journal, use the yellow reading record to record it, there is no need to read your reading book as well on this night. The idea of the journal is to encourage 'book talk' about the parts of the story you liked, disliked, any patterns (that connect to your own life), and puzzles are the questions that your child asks about the story. The journal is always a great success and it will enable your child to talk confidently to others about their wider reading.

The children have been enjoying their 'fast words' and we will be continuing to work through these this term.

Book Week dressing up day is on Friday 6th March and I am very much looking forward to seeing your child in their creative costume!

Writing- We have started the term off reading the traditional tale of 'The Ugly Duckling' and are busy retelling it and writing about it. This term we are focussing on building up our writing stamina. The children will continue to say their sentences, count the words, write their sentences using a capital letter, finger spaces and a full stop (or question mark and exclamation mark). After completing their writing, the children are learning to re-read their work to check it makes sense. They are learning to spot their own mistakes and correct them.

Spelling- In Year 1, our spellings are made up of 100 high frequency words and 11 common exception words. Your child has a high frequency word mat in their writing book to help them spell these words correctly in class. Your child will continue to have a weekly phonic spelling test to compliment the phonemes they are learning in class. Thank you for the support you give your child to learn their spellings each week.

Handwriting- Already most children are forming their lower case letters correctly, therefore we are moving on to learning the names and the correct formation of upper case letters. We have begun the first handwriting joins in class and the children will be continuing to practise joining certain letters, these are at, al, th, ch, cl, in, im, cr, tr, dr, lp, mp, id, ig, nd, ld and ng! Neat presentation is ALWAYS important, please remind your child about good sitting and good writing when they are completing their homework.

Maths- A sound grasp of basic number facts is essential for children when they are working on calculations and problems in maths. This term we are continuing our work on number facts for all numbers up to 20, doubles and halves and counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We will be doing more work on addition and subtraction, as well as work on money, shape, fractions, division and multiplication. It would be wonderful if you could try to tell the time (o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to) at some point each day with your child.

Science- We will be learning about Materials- We will be identifying and naming a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and rock. We will be investigating objects and learning to distinguish between the object and the material from which it is made. We will be asking questions about why certain objects are made from certain materials, e.g. what are the properties of glass that make it good for windows?

Geography- Our Geography work will focus on 'People and their communities' and we will be learning about cities, deserts, rainforests and coastal places where people live around the world. We will be learning atlas skills and all about the continents and oceans. We will then learn about animal homes and where our favourite animals live. **Zoolab** will be in school on **Friday 24th January** for a 'hands-on' animal experience.

R.E. & P.S.H.E- We will be thinking about Creation, New Life and Easter, while PSHE will include exploring and discussing our understanding of respect, honesty, responsibility and caring for our environment. The overall theme for PSHE will be, 'I am awesome'.

P.E. will be on **Monday** and children need a PE kit of shorts, t shirt and plimsolls. It would be a good idea to send in a PE kit and leave it in school until half term. Please ensure that children with pierced ears only wear studs for health and safety reasons.

Year 1 children will be going to a **multi sports morning** at The Dolphin Centre on **Tuesday 21st January**. If your child requires any regular medication (inhaler and spacer, epi-pen) please could you ensure it is available in school and in date.

I look forward to seeing you at Open Evening on Thursday 26th March, however, in the meantime, if you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me. I am in the playground at home time for quick questions and appointments can be made for anything that needs a longer chat. Please note that due to Government legislation leave will not be granted for holidays unless there are extenuating circumstances.

I am looking forward to seeing you at one of our Maths & Phonics open morning sessions which are coming up this term, more details will be sent out closer to the time. Our Year 1 phonics screening will be carried out the week of 7th June. All children must be in school this week. In order to best prepare your child for the screening, no holidays will be authorised in the weeks leading up to this date as we want your child to be as 'phonic check ready' as possible.

I am confident that we will have a very successful year, working together, to ensure your child achieves their full potential during their time in Year 1.

Mrs C. McAdam