

Year 1 Curriculum Newsletter – Spring 2023

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. I am sure the children will have been talking about the great fun they are having at playtimes with all the new OPAL provision. A big thank you to those parents who have already sent in wellies. If your child is a mud magnet, you are very welcome to send in a pair of waterproofs over trousers for them to pop on at lunch time.

Reading

Thank you for the weekly home reading you are doing with your child. It is lovely to read the comments you write in the reading records. In addition to our Little Wandle reading book, this term we are sending home reading journals as part of our Year 1 home reading. 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. World Book Day dressing up day is on Friday 3rd March

Spelling

In Year 1, our spellings are linked to our Little Wandle phonic sessions, our daily spellings compliment the phonemes we are learning in class.

Writing

We have started the term off with a Dr Seuss favourite, 'The Cat in the Hat' and have been making rhyming strings. The children have loved it. Next, we will be reading the traditional tale of 'The Ugly Duckling' and will retell it and write 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 will learn to re-read their work to check it makes sense. They will learn to spot their own mistakes and correct them.

Handwriting

Daily handwriting practice is helping your child to form their lower- and upper-case letters correctly. Any handwriting practise you can do at home to reinforce the letter families will be greatly beneficial. A poster with the correct formation and the letter rhymes is available on the website. Later in the term, we will move on to the first handwriting joins in and the children will practise joining certain letters, these are at, al, th, ch, cl, in, im, cr, tr, dr, lp, mp, id, ig, nd, ld and ng!

Maths

A sound grasp of basic number facts is essential for children when they are working on calculations and problems in Maths. We are having a big push to improve our counting skills and I am so impressed with how many children can already count to 100; any counting you can do at home will support the daily counting we are doing in class. This term we are continuing our work on number facts for all numbers up to 10, then 20, working on doubles and halves and counting in 10s, 2s and 5s. 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. As well as our Maths lesson, we have a



15-minute Mastering Number session each day to ensure the development of good number sense. Our Maths open mornings are on 7th, 8th, 9th March from 9.00-9.30am and it will be lovely to welcome you into the classroom to observe us learning.

Science

We will be learning about materials, 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. We will also learn compass directions and our field work will involve finding out what we can see to the North, East, South and West of our playground.

History

Our History work will involve learning about transport, and why the railway in Darlington is special. We will also learn about the first flight.

Art and DT

Our work in Art will involve printing. We will also study the work of a local artist, Lucas Roy. In D.T., we will design and make a toy vehicle using wheels and axels.

RE and PSHE

In R.E., we will be learning about Judaism, our big question is 'Who is Jewish and how do they live?', later in the term, we will learn why Easter is important. Our PSHE work will include exploring and discussing our understanding of respect, honesty, responsibility and caring for our environment.

PE

This will be on a **Tuesday**. 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. **IMPORTANT - Due to changes in health and safety guidance, we can no longer allow children to wear any form of earring during PE lessons. Please ensure that, if your child wears earrings, they are able to take them out independently or they may not wear earrings on PE days.** The children are currently dancing P.E. lessons. Later in the term they will practise sending and receiving objects. If your child requires any regular medication (inhaler and spacer, epi-pen) please could you ensure it is available in school and in date.

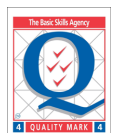
If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am in the playground at home time for quick questions and appointments can be made for anything that needs a longer chat. Please note that due to government legislation, **leave will not be granted for holidays unless there are extenuating circumstances.**

The Year 1 phonics screening will be carried out the week of 12th 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



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