



Year One Curriculum Newsletter Autumn 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 1. We hope that the children are all settling into their new classes, getting to know staff and are excited about their learning this forthcoming year. We are enjoying sharing our treasure boxes with each other and are moving on to introducing our Year 1 cross curricular theme for this half term which is "What were Dinosaurs and how do we know they existed?" Typically working within the year group will be: Mrs Crellin and Miss Gott (class teachers), Mrs Whittaker, Mr Robinson and Mrs Henson (teaching assistants), Tom Andrews (P.E. specialist) and Mr Newton (music specialist).

In English we will be studying stories with familiar settings, non-fiction texts and poetry. We will have focused weekly key word spellings, which will be taught in school through a variety of activities including phonics and guided reading sessions. In our phonics we will be focussing on letter sounds and names as well as blending (putting the individual sounds together to read) and segmenting (sounding out to spell).

In Maths the children will be concentrating on number recognition (numbers up to and including 100), counting, place value and mental calculations including number bonds. They will also be learning about money, shape and space and developing their skills of measuring using a variety of methods. There will be particular emphasis on using a variety of approaches to solve problems encouraging the children to explain their thinking and processes. The children will continue to use Numicon to support their learning and calculations in school.

In Science our first topic this term will be 'What are the similarities and differences between humans and animals?' where the children will learn all about their bodies, their five senses, how humans are different to animals and looking at the key features of a variety of different animals. Later in the term we will be asking the question 'What are the Seasons and the differences between them?' including changes across the seasons, changes in day length and the weather.

I.C.T. is used generally to support the wider curriculum and specifically through using and developing computing skills. We will also be beginning our topics of 'We are painters,' where we will be illustrating an E-book and 'We are celebrating,' where we will be creating a card digitally. Among other things, children will also be learning to keep themselves safe online through E-safety circle times and discussions regarding appropriate use of the internet and search engines. We encourage parents to be vigilant when children are researching and using the internet.

Our R.E. work this term will be focused on the themes of 'Belonging' and 'Celebrations'. Towards Christmas we will be learning about the festivals, beliefs and practices of Christmas. The children will also take part in weekly Circle Time sessions concentrating on the topics of 'New

Beginnings' and 'Getting on and Falling Out.' We will take part in Anti-Bullying sessions as part of our Anti-Bullying week and will also be learning about road safety.

In Art the children will be producing Self Portraits and creating autumn collages. In music they will be working with Mr Newton, who will be supporting the children's topic work through songs and exploring the themes of sound and pitch.

P.E. lessons will take place on Tuesday morning and will be outdoors, weather permitting. Gymnastics lessons will take place on a Thursday afternoon. Please ensure children have the correct 'kit' in school for every eventuality.

In Year 1, homework is based on a points system. Each child will be given a homework book with a homework grid attached. Children must earn points by completing tasks set on the grid and bring these in as soon as they complete each task to assist us with marking. It is expected they treat it with care and respect. If the children earn the required number of points by completing their homework grid by the requested date they will receive a certificate to celebrate their hard work.

Although we provide weekly group guided reading sessions within the class, we also expect that pupils read regularly at home; we also ask that they read their book at least twice (depending on length) before bringing it in to be changed. This ensures the children are also developing their fluency of reading familiar texts and supports with their understanding of what they are reading. Your child has already brought home their new reading record and we would be grateful if you could write a short note in it to say how they got on with their reading. Please note that this is a reading record, not a home/school communication book and the comments should be purely associated with reading. Please be assured that we would contact you if needed to and of course you can always communicate with us by writing a note or emailing the school. Alongside group guided reading sessions and regular reading at home the children also have the opportunity to visit the school library every week where they can select a book to take home.

We look forward to an enjoyable term. If you need to contact us for whatever reason, please do not hesitate.

Mrs K Crellin and Miss R Gott



Below are a few ways in which you could help to support your child at home this term:

English

To encourage your child to form all of their letters correctly and to place them on the line with descenders (i.e. f, g, p, q, y) reaching below the line.

To develop the children's reading and comprehension skills through regular reading at home.

Maths

To practice number bonds to 10 to support the children with their rapid recall.

To practice writing teen numbers correctly (i.e. 13 not 31)

To practice forming all numbers correctly.

You may find the following website useful:

<http://www.ictgames.com/resources.html>

Science

To support the children in understanding and using the following vocabulary:

Ourselves: parts of the body, senses, amphibian, reptile, herbivore, carnivore

Seasons: Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter, changes, day length, shadow

History and Geography

We will be learning all about dinosaurs this half term, so you may wish to familiarise your child with the different names of some dinosaurs. Developing map and atlas skills, locating countries where different dinosaurs used to live and where dinosaur fossils have been found.

Next half term we will be having a focus on pirates, so you may wish to familiarise your child with some seas, oceans and continents.

PSHE and RE

To support the children in understanding and using the following vocabulary:

belonging, groups, community, belief