Year 1 Class Newsletter

Autumn Term 2019

Welcome to Year One!

Hello and welcome to year 1. We hope you have had a joyful and healthy summer. The aim of this newsletter is to give you some insight into what we will be focusing on in the classroom for the rest of the term. We understand that due to the current circumstances children may feel a little anxious about returning to school but it is our job to make them feel safe and comfortable at all times.

I am so lucky to have had the opportunity to spend some time with your children while they were in Reception and get a head start on getting to know them. I am positive that we will have a great year together and I am very much looking forward to working with you and your child.

If, at any time, you have any questions or you are unsure of anything please ask. If I am unable to see you at the beginning or end of the day, please make an appointment to see me at a convenient time.

What does learning look like in Year 1?

The learning environment in Year One builds upon the children's achievements in the Foundation Stage and introduces them to the National Curriculum. English, Maths, phonics and handwriting will be taught daily and the remaining curriculum subjects are taught using a topic approach. Learning will also take place through a child- initiated learning environment, this allows an easier and smoother transition from Reception to Year 1. We aim to plan interesting topics, which will inspire and motivate the children in their learning.

Maths

We will be working hard to develop children's confidence in maths. Throughout the term, our main aim is to strengthen children's awareness of place value and secure basic counting skills. We will also be focusing on:

- Describing position, direction and movement
- Representing and beginning to use number bonds to 20
- Addition, subtraction, doubling and halving
- Estimating ordering and regrouping
- Recognising, creating and describing patterns in numbers
- Names and properties of 2-D and 3-D shapes

During the children's transition from Reception to KS1, Maths will be taught daily through an adult led activity. They will also have the chance to explore Maths resources independently during continuous provision time; this is when children can explore recent learning, practice new skills and follow their own interests.

Important reminders!

- *Please make sure your child is wearing the correct uniform and all belongings are clearly named.*
- *Reading books need to be in school every day and please remember to sign your child's Reading Record.*
- *Please make sure any money sent into school is in a labeled envelope.*
- *Please make sure your child has their PE kit in school every day.*
- *Homework will be topic based and set half termly.*
- *Spellings will be sent home on Fridays to be tested the following Thursday.*

Our motto is:

Alta Pete – Aim High

'Let your light shine'

"The primary aim of the school is to help each pupil reach his or her full potential so that they may develop the attitudes, skills and knowledge to take full advantage of the opportunities available in their future lives."

English

We have revisited the English curriculum and have decided to take on a different approach in teaching English. During the English lessons the children will be using high quality stories to aid them in developing their writing skills. These stories will allow children to be exposed to different types of texts and help deepen their writing skills.

We will be teaching phonics for 20 minutes daily. The children will be learning new sounds and practising their blending and segmenting skills which will support their reading and writing.

Reading

Reading is an integral part of our school day. As well as a daily designated class reading time, the children will access a wide range of texts throughout the day. They will be given opportunities to read texts during shared teaching, as part of a small group and individually. Your child will read with an adult in school at least once a week. It is important that your child brings their reading book into school every day so that we can maximise additional opportunities for them to read. **Please encourage your child to read every day at home and make it a special time together.** Remember little and often is the best way to develop a love for reading! Please can you sign the reading record when you have read with your child. As part of a new incentive to get children reading at home, when your child reads every day for the whole week they are in for the chance of being the Super Reader (and will be allowed to wear an extremely exciting super reader cape all day!). Also, each time your child reads they will earn themselves a sticker to put on their own reading chart; once that chart is filled up they receive a special reward.

Science

Throughout the first half term, our science topic is 'Animals including Humans'. The children will be exploring the five senses and learning about how to keep our bodies fit and healthy, including healthy eating, exercise, brushing our teeth and ensuring we are getting enough sleep. The children will also be learning about the different categories that animals could be placed in, for example, whether an animal is a herbivore or an omnivore.

Topic

We will develop the children's ability to think about past events and use technical historical vocabulary. We will be interviewing the eldest person in our family and finding out the differences of how their childhood differs to theirs. We will also be exploring how different influential figures and how they have had a positive effect on the lives of many. In RE we will be learning about the Creation and how we should respect our natural environment. In art and design, we are creating portraits of ourselves and our friends and family using a range of different materials and techniques, focusing on the work of Pablo Picasso. In our computing lessons, we are learning to use the computer independently and access different programmes to support our learning. In our music lessons, the children will learn how to use their voices expressively through singing and performing. The children will have two PE lessons per week on Monday and Friday. Please ensure your child's PE kit is in school every day.

Homework

Homework expectations for year one will consist of:

- Daily reading – Please read with your child daily and sign their reading records.
- Maths – Each child will be expected to use Mathletics for at least 3 x 10 minute sessions per week. Your child's Mathletics log on can be found at the front of their reading record.
- Google classroom – the homework will be set on google classroom. A platform that was used throughput the lockdown period. The logins will be the same as their previous logins. However, if there is a problem with the login and you require a new one please let me know.

We hope this year brings great academic performances as well as fun learning through play.

The Year 1 team- Miss Esposito, Mrs Maskall and Mrs Smith.