

Autumn Term One Newsletter – Key Stage 1

Welcome back! We hope you have all had a lovely summer holiday and have managed to rest and recharge your batteries. This half term will be filled with lots of fun and exciting activities and lessons to help the children settle back into the classroom after the break away. Both Mrs Waldron and I are thrilled to have already been lucky enough to get to know our classes this year and can't wait to get to know each and every one of the children even more.

Hopefully, this newsletter gives you an insight as to what we are covering this half-term in school and might even help you get more of a response from your child at the end of the day when you ask them 'what have you done at school today...' or maybe not, who knows!

Year 1 this year is looking a little different to previous years. For our daily core lessons of English and Maths, we will be using 'Continuous Provision'. This means that the children have access to the resources, activities and challenges around the room to select from when they are not working with the teacher on focus activities. This wider provision within the classroom will be planned to support the consolidation and absorption of their new knowledge and skills. Each teacher-led focus lesson will be repeated so that each child in the class has time with the teacher working in a small group. This approach will ensure that the transition from Reception to Year 1 is not too daunting but will also ensure that the children are still learning age appropriate knowledge and accessing it in a way that most find more enjoyable than a more formal teaching style.

English:

Year 1: Within our English lessons this half-term we will be focusing on the key skills needed to write a perfect sentence. This will include capital letters, full stops and spaces between our words. To ensure that the children can comprehensively write a sentence that they have composed themselves, they will first rehearse it out loud and then independently have the skills they need, in order to compose their sentence and put pencil to paper. To continue our development of sentence writing, we will also have handwriting sessions in which we will follow our 'Kinetic Letters' scheme, building upon your child's understanding of letter formation. When we are ready, we will gradually build up our writing composition to not only writing the sentence we say out loud but also start to re-read our independent work and check that it makes sense. We will be looking at lots of different texts this half-term to engage and inspire us to be more adventurous with our writing, just a few of the texts we will be using are; 'The Koala Who Could', 'I'm not (very) Afraid of the Dark' and 'Orion and the Dark'.

Year 2: In English this half-term we will start by ensuring we are confident when writing simple sentences indicating these by using capital letters and full stops correctly. We will also be paying particular attention to our spelling of the common exception words and those that include the phonemes that we have learnt within our phonics lessons. Please support your children with this at home by practising the weekly spellings with them. We also have a common exception words word mat which contains all the words the children need to spell by the end of Year 2 that we will be focussing on throughout the year, please ask if you would like a copy of this at home. In phonics we will start by recapping the alternative spelling patterns we have previously learnt before introducing the children to homophones. We will be practising these skills through many different text types starting with 'How to Catch a Star', 'The Way Back Home' and 'The Darkest Dark'.

Maths:

Year 1: Continuing with the same steady approach as English, we will be exploring and developing our number knowledge specifically looking at 'Place Value'. This will include developing our sorting, counting and even learning lots of different ways we can represent a number to 10. Additionally, we will look at not only counting but reading and writing numbers (in numerals) to 100! Towards the end of the half-term we will move onto our second unit within our maths lessons looking at addition and subtraction within 10, focusing initially on the 'part-whole model' strategy. Similar to our handwriting sessions in English, we will be looking at our number formation, again using our 'Kinetic Letters' scheme to ensure that we are using the correct number formations within our daily maths sessions.

Year 2: To start the half-term we will be focusing on 'Place Value' where we will be using numbers up to 100. We will discover the value of these numbers so we can use them throughout the year when completing different mathematical operations. We will have look at how we can represent these numbers in different ways and also break them down (partition) into tens and ones. During the second part of the half term we will then be able to use what we have learnt in our addition and subtraction unit. We will start by looking at number bonds and how looking for patterns with addition and subtraction number sentences can help us to solve them. Throughout all of our maths learning we will have a particular focus on using concrete materials to support our learning and also develop our problem-solving skills.

PSHE:

Our core theme for the whole term will be 'Living in the Wider World', which covers three main mini-topics which are: Belonging to a Community, Media Literacy and Digital Resilience and Money and Work. Each of these mini-topics will cover learning objectives such as: What are rules?, How do we care for others and the environment?, Using the internet and digital devices along with our personal strengths and interests and jobs in the community. These will be mainly discussion-based lessons with both Year 1 and 2 at the same time and will ensure that children are taking turns in larger group discussions, understanding that not everyone is the same and that we all have different strengths and interests; along with how we all play a different role in the community that we belong.

RE:

Our Topic for RE, again in our whole KS1 class, is 'All about me and Important People'. Within our lessons we will be finding out about religious leaders and how they are followed, learning stories about religious leaders and their significance for believers. Looking at these objectives a little deeper, some of the discussions we will have in class will be centred around, who key leaders are for Christians and Jews, what makes them a good leader and understand that many religious leaders are led by God. Accessing this learning a little closer to home we will be thinking about the characteristics of a good leader and will look at some current leaders of different establishments.

Other Curriculum Topics:

Our art topic this half-term is titled 'Starry Night'. We will be looking at the different types of line thickness we can create using a range of different materials, the patterns we can create using lines and how the effect is different depending on the thickness of the tool we are using. Focussing on our topic title we will take a look at the artist Vincent Van Gogh and his famous paintings. With the new skills we learn and develop throughout the few weeks we will then start to create our own version of his famous artwork 'Starry Night'.

Our topic for this half-term is 'Magical Mapping'. We will start to think about maps and how they help us navigate the globe, local areas, seas, oceans and much more! We will focus on using the correct terminology and deepening our understanding about maps.

PE lessons will be taught by Mr Peacock and Mr Goodwin by Nxt Level Coaching and Music will be taught by Mr Lee from XYZ Music.

Homework Expectations:

Both year groups will be set separate homework tasks for the week which will gradually build up over the course of the whole academic year. **Spellings will be set on a Monday and be tested in school on the Friday.** Both year groups are being asked to read five times a week as it is vital to the progress and development of their reading and comprehension skill sets, which will ultimately, help your child throughout their schooling and not just reading in isolation. Therefore, reading records will be checked regularly and recorded on your child's reading award bookmark in school.

Year 1: Children will be expected to read at home at least **five times a week**, this will be checked daily and recorded onto their bookmarks to get ready for certificates! For spellings, Year 1 children will be **set 5 words per week** which will either match up with our phonics learning or some of our common exception words. Reading books will be changed on a **Monday** so please make sure that books are in book bags!

Year 2: Children will be expected to read at home at least **five times a week**, this will be checked daily and recorded onto their bookmarks to get ready for certificates! For spellings, Year 2 children will be **set 6 words per week** which will either match up with our phonics learning or some of our common exception words. Reading books will be changed on a **Monday** so please make sure that books are in book bags!

PE: Tuesday and Thursday will be our PE days for this half-term, please ensure your child is wearing the correct school PE uniform on these days. There is no need for them to bring a PE kit to school because they will be wearing it for the whole day. PE is likely to take place outdoors so please make sure the kit they are wearing is appropriate for the weather.

Enrichment Day:

'A Night in the Day!' For our enrichment treat towards the end of this half-term, we will be exploring seasonal changes and day length, look at how important sleep is for our bodies and of course, we will be getting creative in the afternoon! Children might even be able to come into school in their pyjamas...

Both Mrs Waldron and I are excited to start the school year with you all, we are going to have lots of fun! As always, if you have questions or queries please don't hesitate to drop either one of us an email, as it is never a problem.

Miss Jupp and Mrs Waldron