

## Welcome to Year One

We are really excited about teaching your children this year. It is going to be an interesting year with a lot of fun and investigative topics. As I am sure you are aware, this year will be an enormous leap for the children and it will take some time for them to settle into the new routine; they have done really well so far and I have been so impressed with the way that they have adapted to the bubble layout.

For the time being, the class teachers will be myself (Mrs Stapley) and Mrs Wren.

### Literacy

- Handwriting is a key focus for this year. The children will be learning to write using the cursive script. Each day we will be learning a new letter and these will be sent home with their homework so that you can work on them with the children.
- Creative writing based on the adventures of Claude in the City by Alex T. Smith. The children will be writing mini adventure stories, concentrating on finger spaces, capital letters and full stops.
- Poetry writing based on the book Out and About by Shirley Hughes. This is a wonderful topic where the children get to enjoy rhythm and rhyme. It also ties in nicely with our seasonal science topic.
- Story writing – Using short sequenced sentences to form narratives.
- Predictable and Patterned Language work.

### Reading

The children will be taking part in 30 minute guided reading groups daily. They will also be reading individually with a teacher and Miss Komnenic (our Teaching Assistant) each week. For this reason, **it is important that your child brings in his/her reading record and book each day.** We shall ask your child to change their reading book once they can clearly discuss the story and their reading record is signed.

Over the first few weeks we will be assessing your child's reading level. Once this is done we will be sending home a reading record and two reading books. The books will be changed twice a week. Thank you for the notes that you have already sent in with suggestions of reading levels for your child. We clearly have a lot of very confident readers in this class and it is lovely to see their enthusiasm. We will assess the children's reading levels using the Benchmarking assessment scheme and our own teacher judgement. Please remember that when we assess the children it is not based purely on their ability to read the words but also on their comprehensions of the texts. Therefore, they will not move onto the following level until they are able to answer the inference questions.

It is so important that your child reads with you home (daily, ideally) to develop their fluency and their enthusiasm to read for pleasure. Below I have included some suggested cues that we shall be using at school that can be easily applied at home.

- Use pictures to help identify unknown words and aid comprehension
- Explore a range of different texts – fiction, non-fiction and poetry
- Always check for meaning: does this sentence make sense? Does it sound right?

- Sight words
- Saying aloud known sounds and blending to read all the way through the word
- When developing their comprehension skills, read the sentence that they have read back to them. The children are concentrating so hard on sounding out the words that it is very challenging for them to then answer a comprehension question.

### Maths

- Becoming confident with the numbers 0 – 20. They will be expected to double and halve up to 20 and write number sentences.
- Solve one step problems that involve addition and subtraction, using concrete objects and pictorial representations, and missing number problems such as  $7 = \_ - 9$
- Knowing number bonds to 10
- 2D and 3D shapes

### Computing

- Coding using the Espresso programme
- Internet safety and communication

### Science

- Animals including Humans – We will be finding out about animal classification and learning about the human body. The children will also be taking part in experiments to find out about the senses.
- Celebrations – Naming and identifying the properties of different materials.
- The Seasons.

### History

- Vehicles – Looking at how transport has changed through history.
- Toys – The children will be making comparisons between old and new toys and setting up their own toy museum.

### Art

- Self portraits
- Still life line drawing
- Imaginary landscape painting
- Christmas related art

### RE

- God's Great Plan- The Creation Story
- Mary, Our Mother
- Families and Celebrations

### PSHE

Notes on Planet Earth – Oliver Jeffers. As a way to unite all of the children in the school after being off for such a long time, we will be reading and taking part in activities that celebrate our planet. This book is a beautiful way to share ideas with the children and the main emphasis is all about kindness.

## PE

- Games
- Gymnastics

PE will be every Thursday. The children are to keep their PE kit at home and to come in to school on a Thursday in their PE uniform. They will then wear their PE kit for the day.

## Homework and Spellings

Homework will be uploaded to google classroom every Thursday. The children will be given an alternating English or Maths task which will be related to what we have been learning about that week.

In addition to this we will be sending home spellings. The children will be given five spellings to practice at home and they will then have a mini test on a Tuesday. To give your child the best chance of remembering the spellings, please encourage them to write them out and not just say them aloud. This is also a good way to help with their handwriting.

## Show and Tell

Unfortunately we cannot bring objects in from home this term. However, if your child has something they would like to share with the class, we would love to hear it. Each Friday we will have some dedicated time to share news with the class. Please try and encourage your child to share something. If you know that your child is very shy, come and find me in the playground and we can find a way to help them.

## Useful Links

- Year One Curriculum Objectives – Year One class page, school website.
- <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk>
- [www.ictgames.com/literacy.html](http://www.ictgames.com/literacy.html) - a selection of games that link well with games in Letters and Sounds.
- Ruth Miskin Phonics – There is a tab for parents at the top of the webpage. [www.ruthmiskin.com](http://www.ruthmiskin.com)
- Mr Thorne Phonics – Useful website where the children can listen to the sounds. <http://www.mrthorne.com/>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries,

Mrs Stapley (Monday to Thursday)