

Springfield Primary Academy

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Care, Collaboration, Challenge

13th September 2021

Information for parents of Year 1 and 2 children – Autumn 2021

Dear parents

Welcome to a new school year at Springfield Primary Academy. This letter aims to provide you with information about routines, the curriculum, homework etc. within the Year 1 and 2 classes this term.

COVID-19

As the government has lifted all restriction regarding bubbles and the need for children to be facing forwards, schools will be returning to some pre-COVID normality, including sitting in group tables and no separation during play and dinnertimes. However, school are continuing with the stringent handwashing. Children are washing hands regularly, at set times of the day. Staff have access to alcohol based sanitiser if needed.

Keep checking on the school website for the most recent newsletters and information regarding COVID-19.

Communication

We continue to use Class Dojo as our primary way to provide communication with parents and provide work should a child have to self-isolate. Newsletters and homework menus will also be posted on the class story so it is vital that you are signed up to Class Dojo. It is also a good way of communicating with your child's class teacher. If you have any problems connecting or do not have access to Class Dojo then please contact your child's class teacher. Alternatively, you can contact the office by phone or email.

Learning

This term there will be one topic – London. Autumn 1 will be predominantly geography based and the children will learn about capital cities of the UK and will spend time learning about London, our capital city and its famous landmarks. Autumn 2, the topic will predominantly be history based with the children looking at key events in history, including The Great Fire of London and the work of Sir Christopher Wren. Over the whole term, children will be looking at, and exploring different materials and their uses.

Educational Visits

No visits have been planned yet, however once we have any news we will let you know in a separate letter.

Grouping

This year we will have 3 classes: Y1, Y1/2 and Y2. The children will spend most of their time in these classes, although there will be grouping for letters and sounds/phonics work.

Staff

The Year 1 teachers this year will be Mrs. Orhan and Miss James sharing a Year 1 class. Mrs. White and Mrs Orhan (Thurs) will have Y1/2 and Miss Bunn Y2. Other members of staff : Mrs Whitehead, Mrs Kirkham, Mrs Abul-Hawa, Mrs Boam, Mrs Cartwright, Mrs Tuck and Mrs Wright.

PE

PE will be as follows.

Miss Bunn's class – Monday and Wednesday

Mrs White's class – Wednesday and Thursday

Mrs Orhan and Miss James' class – Tuesday and Wednesday

Please ensure that your child has the appropriate PE kit with them on these days (Red PE T-shirt and black shorts). To start the year your child should also have trainers as PE may take place outside. Please note that earrings must be taken out for PE lessons and members of staff cannot do this. Children **cannot** take part in PE lessons wearing earrings and cannot cover earrings with plasters. Please note that P.E is a statutory requirement.

NB. We always have a massive amount of unclaimed PE kit with no name. It would really help if all items of PE kit and other uniform are named and checked regularly as names tend to wash off easily.

Spelling

The children will be given spellings on a Friday to learn at home. These spellings will be based on the letters and sounds phase that your child is working on or will be high frequency/tricky words. Your support in helping your child to practise their spellings will be greatly appreciated. Spellings will be tested the following Thursday (for everyone).

Reading/Bug Club

It is most important that your child continues to read at home on a regular basis. This year we are trying to make the children more independent in choosing their own reading books. Unless they are on a phase book, children will select their own scheme book. We will try to make sure that they choose a different book but there may be the odd times which they might bring the same book home. This may be a time when they could select a book from their bug club account. There is an expectation that children read their school books each week, which will be sent home. This could be a book from school, using online reading (BUG CLUB) or other books that you might have at home.

All the children will take part in a guided reading session with the class teacher once per week. The children will bring at least one book home per week. Additional phonic books may also be sent home. **Reading books will be sent home on Fridays and should be returned by the following Wednesday to enable books to be changed.**

Times tables

There is an expectation that all Year 1 children can count in 2s, 5s and 10s up to 24, 60 and 120 respectively. In Year 2 the expectation is that children have rapid recall of all the facts from each of these tables as well as knowing the division facts i.e. How many 5s are there in 35? Your child's class teacher will make it clear what each child should practise at home. Table's tests will take place in Year 2 classes on a weekly basis which will start after October half term.

Homework

We are continuing with the homework journals. These produce some high quality homework and also enable children and parents to share 'longer' pieces of homework. Every child will be given a homework book that will be their responsibility. Each term there will be a homework 'menu' stuck into the homework book and posted on the class story of Class Dojo. This will contain a set of interesting and fun activities related to the work being done in class. The expectation is that your child should choose at least 6 activities from the menu over the half-term and, once an activity has been completed, bring the homework book into class. We hope that this will encourage your child to take more 'ownership' of their homework as well as improving the quality of homework.

Picking up

Due to GDPR regulations, if your child is being collected by someone who wouldn't normally come for them, **please make your child's teacher aware at the beginning of the day or ring the school office.** This is for your child's safety.

Other information

The children are allowed to have a drink at different times during the day, though cups are not provided. We would encourage your child to bring **a named, labelled, bottle of water or another sugar free drink**, which can be kept in the classroom. This should be taken home each evening to be washed and refilled. Please ensure that your child **does not** bring toys to school unless they have been asked to.

Hopefully, this letter will answer your questions about the term ahead. Keep looking at whole school letters posted on the school's website and also on your class' class story. If you do require further information, please feel free to contact your child's class teacher.

Yours sincerely

Miss Bunn Mrs White Mrs Orhan Miss James