



Year One/Two Autumn Newsletter

Mrs Gilbraith & Mrs Taylor



Welcome back to a new school term! We are very much looking forward to being back together in school and hope you are ready for our exciting topics in Year 1. At the beginning of the year, the organisation of year one builds on experiences within the Foundation Stage. There are lots of opportunities for the children to engage in their own 'self-initiated' activities, as well as 'teacher-led' and 'independent' working groups. We will, however, gently ease them out of play-based activities, towards more teacher-led and independent tasks throughout the year and as the curriculum becomes more demanding.

Maths

This term the children will develop their knowledge of number and place value. They will focus on developing accuracy in counting forwards and backwards in 1s within a 100. The children will also develop mental maths skills by finding 1 more and 1 less. Number formation is another key to focus on this term. We will also explore shape by recognising and naming 2D and 3D shapes.

Reading Books

Reading books have been issued and are to be read daily at home. Children are expected to read on at least three separate occasions throughout the week. Please listen to your child read each night and talk to them about the book. Reading books will be changed when your child is ready to move onto the next book.

Please ensure you support reading at home as we have found it really helps the children progress with their phonics. We also have weekly guided reading sessions focussing on comprehension of shared stories.

Phonics and English

The children will continue to develop their skills in speaking and listening, reading, writing and spelling.

Lots of opportunities will be provided for children to read and retell stories and express their opinions of characters, the setting and the plot. They will focus on writing in sentences, spelling key words correctly and attempting to spell new words using phonic knowledge. They will develop correct letter formation through frequent handwriting sessions and develop the use of capital letters in sentences.

The children will continue to develop their knowledge of letters and sounds through a structured phonics programme called Sounds Write. This is preparing the children for their phonics screening test which will happen in June. Please ensure you are reading at home as we have found this really supports the children in developing their phonics skills.

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The three Christianity topics that the children will be learning about this term are 'Families' - God's love and care for every family. 'Belonging' - Baptism; an invitation to belong to God's family. 'Waiting' - Advent: A time to look forward to Christmas. We will also cover Judaism this half term, with a focus on Jewish stories relating to Abraham and Moses.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

We will continue with regular well-being activities to help the children's emotional, social and physical development. RHSE is at the heart of our teaching, with daily teaching of relationships, friendships and managing feelings. Alongside this, we will learn healthy lifestyles and living in the wider world; looking after the environment and understanding money.

Science

The Science topics to be covered this term are 'Plants' and 'Animals and Humans'. Investigation is a key area of development, and the children will use their knowledge to develop their skills and understanding.

Geography

After half term Our Geography focus is 'Where I Live'. We will be identifying different areas within Hartlepool and the Northeast of England and will be comparing them to different countries around the world, recognising basic map skills, and using simple compass directions.

History

This term, we will focus on 'George Stephenson'. We will look at the difference George Stephenson and his son Robert made to the world and how this impacted on the Northeast.

Computing

This term we will be looking at computer systems and networks. We will be looking at different technology around us and developing our skills when using Seesaw. We will also be using creating digital media using Painting Paintz. Online safety is taught as part of the curriculum.

Art & DT

Our lovely topics allow us lots of opportunity for artistic activities including drawing, painting, sculpting as well as collage and model-making. The children will have the opportunity to build a new chair for Baby Bear in our D&T topic.

PE lessons will be on Tuesday afternoon and Thursday morning. Your child should have a full PE kit in school, which we will send home at the end of each half term. Our unit of work is agility, balance and co-ordination as well as multi-skills.

Homework Reading needs to be practised daily. GPS activities will be sent home on a Friday and Phonics activities will also be sent home to support the phonics screening in June. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your continued support. Mrs Gilbraith and Mrs Taylor.