

Year One - Autumn 1 half-termly curriculum letter.

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school after the summer break and to Year 1. This letter is to inform you of the daily routine, National Curriculum areas and topics for the following half term. We will still be providing some hands-on practical activities to allow the children to settle in to the Year 1 environment as well as more formal lessons where the children will be recording their work in discreet subject area exercise books.

Our classroom teaching assistant, Mrs Grayken works in class every morning and Mrs Ash will be with us each day. Mrs Garrett (HLTA) will cover my PPA on a Wednesday afternoon.

Come and See

Our first topic is 'Families', which teaches the children about the love and care within their families at home, school and God's family. They will learn that all families are different and unique.

If possible, please could you send in **one, small family photograph to display on the classroom wall - I will return it to you at the end of the topic - thank you! If you are unable to print a photograph, please pop one onto Seesaw - I will make an activity folder for this to be uploaded, so we can view them from there.*

'Belonging' - our second topic, helps the children to understand the importance of belonging to different social groups and about being baptised into the church family.

I will be asking for a photograph of your child as a baby for this topic, if possible, but I will remind you nearer the time.

Mrs Garrett will be sharing the teaching of this subject on a Tuesday afternoon.

Maths

We start our daily Maths lesson with a mastery in maths warm up. This is a mental maths programme that develops children's counting, recall of number facts and calculation skills, using a range of mental strategies. Each Friday we take the 'Big math's challenge' which motivates learning by encouraging the children to beat their previous weekly score. We will start this fun challenge on Friday! The children will bring their sheets home to share with you.

In our main teaching of maths, we will be using White Rose Maths, which is both practical and written. Our initial aim is for all children to write their numerals with the correct formation as soon as possible.

English

Phonics

Each day begins with a daily phonics lessons, using the Read, Write Inc. scheme, which lasts for 25 minutes, covering reading skills and spelling patterns. Children are streamed for this session and work in small groups with one of our teaching assistants from across the school. The children will have their first session tomorrow morning.

In English, your child will learn to:

- Tell stories and describe events from their own experience;
- Listen to and retell familiar stories; order the main events; discuss the characters;
- Listen to a range of poems about animals; recognise and join in with patterned language and repetition;
- Recite rhymes and poems by heart;
- Listen with concentration; listen to and follow instructions accurately;
- Recall specific information in texts;
- Begin to punctuate sentences using capital letters and full stops;

Spelling tests: Spellings will be sent home weekly, as homework, for your child to learn via Seesaw. We will start with just a few to begin with, focussing on our phonics spelling patterns and the common exception words for Year One. We ask for the children (or you) to return spelling practice to us electronically via the Seesaw activity, so that we can check it has been completed and reward dojos. You should all have now received a paper invite to join the Y1 Seesaw page and I am sure you will all be experts at using it by the end of the month! Please log on asap to check our weekly homework and reading records.

Reading books: Reading books will be changed twice weekly on a Monday and Thursday. Please return the reading books only - we do not use a paper reading record any more. So that we know that the book has been read/completed, we will be asking you to make a comment on the Seesaw app.

P.E. will take place on a Thursday afternoon starting this week. Each Thursday, you should send your child to school wearing their school PE kit (with a jumper/ jogging bottoms/ shorts & t-shirt, depending on the weather) for the whole day, so that we are not changing at school. Please could you double check names are in each item of school uniform and PE kit, thank you!

Snacks: Just to remind you that we have a healthy snack policy Monday to Thursday during our Key Stage 1 morning playtime. **One** snack only please (fruit or crackers, for example), or toast is also available to buy on a termly basis, if you wish. A *small treat* is allowed on Friday morning (crisps or a small, fun size chocolate bar or a sensible small packet of sweets). **NB No nuts in school, please.** In Year One, we also have an afternoon playtime, where children are provided with a piece of fruit from school.

Water bottles: Please ensure your son/daughter has a named water bottle in school. We always have a lot of identical bottles, so a name label is important for your child to recognise their own. Water bottles will be sent home at the end of the school day to be washed, so please send it back in with your child each day. Sports cap tops are the easiest - they help to prevent large water spillages too!

Medical: Please let me know if your child needs an asthma inhaler in school. I will keep these in a safe place and will be administered if and when necessary, under supervision. Likewise, please could you inform us of any allergies which your child may have or has developed recently.

Class dojo: This is a good way of communicating with you as parents and to share news from school such as photos from the school day. You can message me during school hours (or between 8am - 6pm) if you need to check something or respond to a message, but please still contact the school office if your child is attending a medical appointment or if your child is absent.

Seesaw: Please stick to Seesaw for the uploading of homework, not for messaging me - that can be done on Class dojo.

Weekly routine: I have uploaded a weekly guide to Seesaw for you to refer to regarding all the information above.

I hope you find this information useful. Year One runs slightly different to the Reception class, so please let me know if you have any questions about our routines, your child, or their learning.

Please bear with me at the end of the day - I line the children up outside and call for the parent/carer of that child to step forward, one at a time. This allows me to be sure that each child has gone home with the right person, safely. Please inform me or the office if someone different is picking up your child.

Many thanks for your support, in advance.

I look forward to getting to know you all during the course of the year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs N. Cahalín