

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 (please see the attached topic web). 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 following the National Curriculum for Year One.

Our classroom teaching-assistant, Mrs Grayken works in class every morning helping to support the children's learning. Mrs Fitzsimmons will teach the children on a Friday. Mrs Garrett (HLTA) will cover my PPA on a Wednesday afternoon.

RE

Our first topic is called 'Creation & Covenant'. The children will learn how to recognise that they can sense God's presence through the awe and wonder that they experience in the beauty and order of Creation. They will recognise that the Church teaches that 'all that is, comes from God our Father, who made Heaven and Earth.

We will also learn about 'Laudate Si' - a letter of thanks from Pope Francis, about the gift of Creation.

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. You will receive a number formation poster to help support your child at home.

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 have started their phonics groups this week and will receive homework from their phonics group leader every Wednesday.

In English lessons, 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 for your child to learn at home. This will be done via Class Dojo portfolio. This is a slightly different way of posting home learning activities, so please bear with us, whilst we get used to it! We will start by learning the common exception words for Year One. We ask you to return the spelling practice electronically, so that we can check it has been completed and reward dojos. An uploaded photograph will be sufficient.

Reading books: Reading books will be changed twice weekly on a Monday and Thursday. Please return the reading books with a signed and dated reading record so that we know that the book has been read/completed.

P.E. will take place on a Thursday afternoon. 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! Velcro pumps / trainers are welcomed, rather than laces, unless of course your child can already tie their own!

Snacks: Just to remind you that we have a healthy snack policy Monday to Friday during our Key Stage 1 morning playtime. **One** snack only please (fruit or crackers, for example). Toast is also available to buy on a termly basis, if you wish. **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 us know if your child needs an asthma inhaler in school. We will keep these in a safe place and will only be administered if and when necessary, under supervision. Likewise, please could you inform us (and the office) 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 us 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. I may not see messages during teaching hours.

Weekly routine: I have uploaded a weekly overview to Class dojo for you to refer to regarding all the information above.

I hope you find this information useful. Year One runs differently to the Reception class, so please let me know if you have any questions about our routines, your child, or their learning. The children are beginning to getting used to their new, more formal timetable.

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

Many thanks for your support, in advance.

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

Yours sincerely,

Mrs M. Cahalín and Mrs Fitzsimmons