

Year 1 Autumn Newsletter

Welcome back! We are very much enjoying 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 the classroom 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.

PSHE

Our focus this term will be helping children to re-establish their routines and relationships. There will be regular well-being activities to help the children’s emotional, social and physical development. PSHE is at the heart of our teaching with daily teaching of relationships, friendships and managing feelings.

Phonics & 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, settings and 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 Read Write Inc. Please ensure you support reading at home as we have found it really helps the children in all areas of the curriculum and their developing vocabulary.

Reading Books

Reading books will be sent home on Friday, please return them the following Thursday for a new book. Please listen to your child read each night and talk to them about the book. Write down a comment in the reading record book as this provides valuable evidence of your child’s progress.

You will find a log in for Seesaw in your child’s reading record. Special learning moments, events, homework and information will be sent on this platform. **Please use this to upload a short video of your child reading weekly at home.**

Each child has access to Reading Eggs for extra practice. Log-ins are also inside record books.

R.E 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 into God’s family.
- Waiting, Advent: a time to look forward to Christmas.

We will also cover Judaism this term with a focus on Jewish stories.

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 100. The children will also develop mental maths skills by finding 1 more and 1 less. Number formation is another key area of focus this term.



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Daily Checklist: St Paul's water bottle. Wear PE kit on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Science

The Science topics to be covered this term are 'Everyday Materials' and 'My Body'. Investigation is a key area of development and the children will use their knowledge to develop their skills and understanding.

Geography

Our Geography focus is 'Where I live'. We will be identifying familiar places in our local area, recognising basic map skills and using simple compass directions. We will then compare where we live to the contrasting locality of Kenya.

History

To begin the term, we will focus on 'Toys and Transport through Time'. We will explore changes within living memory, talk about their experiences with toys and transport making comparisons.

Computing

We use a range of programmes to support subject skills mainly in English, Maths and Science. Using the Purple Mash scheme we begin the year grouping and sorting, leading onto work about pictograms. We will also focus on online safety throughout the term.

Art & DT Our lovely topics allow us lots of opportunity for artistic activities including drawing, painting, sculpting as well as collage and model-making. We will begin our topic of designing a coat and chair for Barnaby Bear.

Music The children will learn to sing new songs and hymns as well as using a range of percussion instruments.

Homework Daily Reading and Reading Eggs.

Miss McCue will be teaching PSHE and computing every Monday afternoon, with support from Mrs Wallace.

We are supported in class by Mrs Wallace every morning and Mrs Donovan, a school volunteer, on a Tuesday and Thursday.

If you have any questions or concerns, then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Bowes & Mrs Wallace

PE

PE lessons will be on **Monday** morning and **Wednesday** afternoon. Your child should come to school wearing their PE kit on those days.

Our My Personal Best word is 'Concentration'. We will be learning how we concentrate in PE and in the classroom as well as relating this to why it is important to concentrate and what prevents us from concentrating. After half-term our focus is "Courage"

For our physical skills we begin the term working on throwing, catching and tracking a ball. We will learn how to adjust games to make them easier or harder, how to follow instructions as well as how to work as part of a team. With a partner we will learn how to work with a friend and how to solve problems together.

In gymnastics we will learn how to balance on our front and back and how to develop stability and control when performing balances. We will take these skills on to different apparatus to challenge ourselves. Dance will be linked to our topic on Toys and we will learn how to co-ordinate movements as well as moving spontaneously. Throughout the term we will work on our social and thinking skills and how to keep active in a fun way through play.

