



# Year 1 Spring Newsletter



Welcome back and Happy New Year!

We have returned to what promises to be a busy and exciting Spring Term. We continue to welcome Mrs. Donovan, who volunteers to support Year 1 children in their learning journey, as well as Isabel who is in school every Friday as part of her T-Level training. As the children move through Year 1 there is an emphasis on more formal learning. There are, of course still plenty of opportunities for the children to work in the areas and develop their own self-initiated activities as well as lots of practical learning.

## **Mental Health, Wellbeing and P\$HE**

This term, the children will learn how their behaviour affects others; focusing on being polite and respectful. We will also explore cultural diversity and understanding the meaning of living in the wider world. 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 to help develop positive relationships, friendships, and manage feelings.

## **Phonics & English**

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

We will use key books as stimuli for our writing, for example writing a narrative with an animal of choice linked to the text Owl Babies. During the writing process the children will be taught about the importance of using different openings to their sentences as well as to develop the use of conjunctions in sentences (and, but, so, then).

We will also continue to develop correct letter formation and the use of capital letters, full stops and finger spaces in sentences. The children will continue to develop their knowledge of phonics through a structured RWI programme. The children will be encouraged to apply these skills in their independent writing; spelling key words correctly and attempting to spell new words using phonic knowledge.

## **R.E**

The three Christianity topics that the children will be learning about this term are:

- **Special People:** People within the Parish family who help us.
- **Meals:** Mass is Jesus's special meal.
- **Change:** Lent is a time for change.

## **Maths**

This term the children will develop their knowledge of number value and order as well as their accuracy in counting. They will add and subtract within 10 and learn fact families. We will be focusing a lot on number fluency; rapid recall of simple addition and subtraction facts.

The children will also learn about measurement in a variety of contexts: length, height, weight and volume.





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**Daily Checklist: St Paul's Eco Water bottle. Please Wear PE kit on Mondays and Fridays.**

**Science** Our Science topic this half term is 'Seasons.' We will be considering how animals and humans are affected by seasonal change. After half term, our topic will change to Movement, Forces and Magnets, where children will learn that forces are pushes and pulls that affect movement and explore how magnets attract or repel certain materials. Investigation is a key area of development and the children will use their knowledge to develop their skills and understanding.

**History** Towards the end of term we will begin to learn about, 'George Stephenson' and his significance in our historical timeline. Pupils will summarise their learning by recording events and achievements in George Stephenson's life that they think were significant and important towards revolutionising transport.

**Geography** We are continuing to explore our topic, 'Where we live'. Children will be comparing Kenya and Billingham by exploring differences in climate, landscapes, wildlife and daily life, helping them understand cultural diversity and contrasting environments.

**Computing** This term we are exploring how to follow and create simple instructions on the computer. We will also investigate how to correct an "error" by debugging. We will use programs to support our English skills by creating an animated story book. The children are taught how to use digital devices safely as part of online safety.

## Reading Books

Reading books will be issued in plastic folders on Friday **to be kept at home** and returned on the following THURSDAY.

## Homework

Year 1 homework is to practise weekly spellings which will be given out the first week of term and also posted on SeeSaw. To practise reading skills 5 times a week, including the school reading book and/or Reading Eggs. In addition to this, the children can choose any of the shared Thrive activities, please upload and share any of these wonderful activities you complete on Seesaw.

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

**Thank you for all your continued support.**

*Miss Bowes*

## PE

PE lessons will be on Monday and Fridays. Please ensure your child has their red shorts in school. We will be working on gymnastic skills, developing balance, travel, rolls and shapes. We will also be linking actions using the apparatus. Children will be working individually and with a partner to devise sequences. This term begins with the My Personal Best word 'Imagination.' We will be using this in our PE lessons and in other curriculum areas. After half term, we will be looking at 'Fairness.' We will be developing children's understanding that fairness is not everyone having the same but everyone having what they need.

**Art & DT** Our lovely topics allow us lots of opportunity for artistic activities including drawing, painting, sculpting as well as collage and model-making.

**Music** The children will develop their listening skills, understanding rhythm and pulse, as well as incorporating untuned percussion. We are very lucky that Mrs Taylor from Tees Valley Music Service leads our music lessons.

