

Curriculum Newsletter KS1

Welcome back after what we hope has been a lovely and relaxing Summer Break. We have been working hard over the summer to ensure the children have an exciting environment in which to learn and to this end, we wanted to outline some of the areas we will be focussing on over the coming term. We have developed areas within the Key Stage 1 provision to support our overarching theme of 'We are Explorers.' Each of the classroom areas are designed to ensure that the children can gain the maximum learning potential from each of the core subject – one has a focus of maths, another reading and finally writing for the third. Alongside this, we have developed the 'Discovery Room', which will allow the children to explore, rehearse and challenge their learning further while continuing to promote and develop independence.



Typically, the children will be based with their class teacher – Miss Gott, Mrs Crellin or Mrs Hughes and supported by Mrs Gibson and Mrs Dent. However, DFC will continue to support in the teaching of the PE curriculum, Mr Newton will be delivering his inspiring music lessons and Mrs Whittaker will also be a regular part of the team.

Our main topic is based around the enquiry question: 'James Cook – hero or villain?', which will then lead onto a topic based around some of his discoveries of Australia, their culture and traditions. This will be our main History and Geography focus for the term. In order to support your child's learning further, we will be arranging a trip to enhance their experiences – more details to follow. Linked to this we will be providing a range of writing opportunities through our English work, including narrative, diary entries, newspaper articles, letters and persuasive writing. We will also develop a poetry strand in line with national poetry day (3rd October). SPAG (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) will be taught in both discrete lessons and as part of the English session. We have attached the common exception words for Year 1 and Year 2 for you to support your child with at home. We will also have a focus on the quality of writing and 'beautiful work'. We have attached a copy of the cursive script and we encourage the children to adopt and ask that you support this in any work they do at home.

Maths will follow the national curriculum for both Year 1 and 2 and will primarily focus on the areas of number, geometry and measures. Much of this work will be practically based to allow the children to continue to develop their understanding of fluency, as well as providing opportunities for challenge and reasoning their mathematical understanding.

Computing work will also link to the James Cook topic, with work on the use of photography and animations. Design Technology will encompass the children designing, making and evaluating a boat to given specifications.

Science will be based around humans, including growth, life cycles, hygiene and keeping fit. Wherever possible this work will link to our topic around James Cook and consider how health and hygiene have changed over time.

Your child will have PE twice a week – please ensure that they have their kit in school for the full week. They will initially need both an indoor kit (shorts and t-shirt) and an outdoor kit (joggers and sweatshirt) as well as a change of appropriate footwear.

Please ensure all kit is clearly named.

Children received reading records along with a selection of books for over the holidays. Please encourage your child to bring these back into school when they have finished reading them, and place them in the basket within the classroom. These will then be changed and new books sent home. Before sending any books back into school, please ensure that the book has been read at least twice (depending on the length of the book), that your child can discuss the book, make predictions about what might happen next and express their thoughts on the story. Children will also visit the school library, where they will have the opportunity to select a book they wish to read for pleasure. Guided Reading will be taught daily, and this will encompass phonics and comprehension skills. DEAR time (Drop Everything and Read) will also be provided throughout each day.

As we have been thinking about the changes we are making to the KS1 provision, we have also considered the homework element to this. We suggest that the children read daily, as well as working on spellings and phonics across the week. However, we do acknowledge that some children enjoy taking their learning beyond the classroom and continuing this learning at home - as we experienced in the last week of term when some children came into school with model rockets and art work around the solar system. To this end, we have designed a child-led homework challenge based around our topic. Your child will bring home an image of James Cook. It is then up to your child to explore an area, which interests them linked to the image and their learning. They may wish to find out more information about Captain Cook, find out about the ships he sailed and the voyages of discovery he went on, find out about the countries he visited and discoveries he made, produce art work around some of the things he may have seen, build a replica boat..... the choice is theirs. We will support and encourage the children to generate ideas within school and then share and celebrate their learning with their peers when they return work to school. We anticipate that children will explore their learning further at home over a number of weeks and that everybody produces at least one piece linked to the topic over the half term.

Finally, we would like to invite you into school on Friday 13th between 3:30 and 4:30pm where your child can show you around the new provision and share some of their learning so far. We would also be happy to clarify or answer any questions you may have at this time.

We look forward to an enjoyable and exciting term.

Key Stage 1 Team