



Y1 Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello and welcome to Year 1! It is lovely to be getting to know all of the children and hear their news of the summer and all they have been up to. This letter is to let you know details of our learning this term and some Year 1 routines.

Our topic this term for Year 1 is **“Growing”**. This will include a science focus of learning about basic parts of the human body, senses and finding out about plants and trees, seasons, and change. These first weeks are very much a time of transition from Reception and the children will continue to have a lot of time choosing and following their own interests in the areas of provision, exploring, and learning for themselves. Each day we will also spend time on phonics, maths and English as well as covering a range of subjects linked to our topic across the week.

Our aim is to make all our **learning** as fun and practical as possible. In line with the National Curriculum, English in Year 1 includes speaking and listening, phonics, reading, writing, spelling, and handwriting. We will begin by focusing on writing lists, labels and captions, moving on to simple sentences connected to our topic often using books and experiences as a starting point. In maths we will be mainly using the White Rose materials to cover the Year 1 objectives related to number and place value within 20, addition and subtraction within 10 and developing learning on 2D and 3D shapes. In History we will be thinking about the children’s own timeline and events within their living memory as they grow up. In Geography we will be thinking about the weather and developing simple map skills and directional language involving the school grounds including the nature garden and orchard to look for things that are growing! We shall also explore religious and cultural celebrations including Harvest, Diwali, Advent and Christmas and thinking how and why we celebrate special events. Art sessions will focus on colour and drawing and link to our topic work on growing and we will extend this in Computing sessions using drawing and painting software to make pictures and cards. At the end of the term, we will develop our Design and Technology (DT) skills to make a card with a moving part. As part of our Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE) curriculum we shall be exploring the themes “Feeling good and being me” (recognising and naming emotions) and ‘Life changes’ (new classes and new friends). In our music sessions we will be learning about pulse, rhythm and pitch using the Leeds Charanga music scheme. In the second half of the term, we shall practise and perform a musical nativity. In PE we will be keeping fit and active with a mix of dance, gymnastics, and team games.

PE Kit – This year children need to bring in their PE kit in a named bag to keep in school for the half term rather than coming dressed in PE kit on PE days. PE kit is white or purple t-shirt, plain dark shorts, leggings or jogging bottoms and pumps or trainers. Please send this in as soon as possible if you haven’t done so already.

Water bottles - We encourage children to have regular drinks of water during the day so please could you provide your child with a named water bottle that they take home and bring back each day with fresh water.

Milk - If you would like your child to have milk, please make sure you log onto “Cool milk limited”. If you did not register last year, the office can give you more details.

How you can help?

Regular **reading** with your child is vital in Year 1. This should be a short session of about ten minutes at least three times per week to enable your child to practise their phonic skills and to recognise tricky words by sight. Please date and sign your child’s reading record so that we know they have read their home reading books and so that we know to give them a new book. We will change reading books once a week in school. The day that books are changed will vary for each child, so please make sure they bring them in every day. You will receive a separate **homework** leaflet with details about our big homework project this half term and ideas for other activities you can do together at home.

Finally, please do make sure you come and talk to us about your child with any questions or concerns you may have. We want to work with you to keep your child safe, happy, and learning well. Feel free to catch us at the start or the end of the day or ask at the office to make an appointment.

We are really looking forward to getting to know you and your children as the year moves on!

Sara Mitchell, Susie Hopkins, Bethan Jones

Staff working in class this term	PE Days	Reading book bag	Spelling day	School Library book day
Sara Mitchell (teacher) -Mon/Tue	Likely to be Tuesdays and Wednesdays but could be subject to change on a weekly basis Mrs Maver will be taking the class for PE on Wednesday mornings to cover staff PPA.	Every day (each reading group will have it changed on a different day)	Phonics – every day, Your child will bring a sheet home with them to revise the sound and key spellings of the day.	Tuesday – we will visit the school library once a week for children to borrow a book. Please make sure they bring it on this day to change for a new one!
Susie Hopkins (teacher) -Wed/Thurs/Fri				
Bethan Jones (teaching assistant) -Everyday				