

Year 1 Newsletter

Spring Term 2019



Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year to you all! We hope that you have all had a wonderful break.

Autumn Term Review: All of the children have worked extremely hard this term to settle into Year 1. There have been lots of new routines, challenges and experiences and the children have tackled these well. We are very proud of them and look forward to seeing them continue to blossom this term. During the first half term, we spent time identifying, naming and drawing parts of our body. We discovered the body parts used for each of our senses and discussed how different life would be without one of our senses. We also looked at animals and the special body parts they have. We sorted and grouped animals based on what they eat, learning the terms carnivore, herbivore and omnivore. In Art, we have been practising using different mediums to create self-portraits and pet portraits. We have looked at contemporary artists and more traditional pictures. During our Computing lessons, the children have been learning to log on and use a mouse to navigate around the computer, opening and closing programs. There have been some super pieces of artwork and animations created, as well as text which has been written.



We have been looking at Christianity in our RE lessons, learning all about Christians' relationship with God. We have learnt about churches and other religious symbols. The Nativity story has been covered in RE and English lessons, as we prepared for our Christmas play.

Mog and the V.E.T., The Very Hungry Caterpillar and How many sleeps until Christmas? are just a few of the wonderful stories that have been the focus of our English lessons. Children have been working extremely hard to improve their writing of sentences; remembering a capital letter, a full stop and finger spaces. We have been encouraging the children to extend their sentences using and or because. A big focus has been on using the correct letter formation when they write and ensuring that they try to use their best handwriting. We are so impressed with their efforts. Keep up the good work!



The children have been developing their addition and subtraction skills within our maths lessons along with looking at 2D shapes, direction, measurement, counting to 100 and counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We most definitely have some budding mathematicians in Year 1.

Reading

Thank you to all of you who attended our Top Tips reading sessions. It was really lovely to see so many people. We are noticing a huge difference in progress in those children who are reading regularly. Please keep up the good work – you are making an amazing difference to your child's



future by helping them learn to read now. Information about our new toy themed reading challenge is on its way!

Library: Your child will have the opportunity to change their library book on a Monday and a Thursday. Please ensure that your child has their library book in school on those days.



Curriculum: Our new topic is 'Terrific Toys', within this topic we will be talking about our favourite toys and investigating the materials that toys are made from. We will be researching toys that our parents and grandparents played with as children. If you have any toys from your childhood and would be kind enough to bring them in for us to show the children, please let us know as we would be very grateful.

Homework: Homework will continue to be issued on a Friday and will be collected in on a Wednesday. Please continue to support your child in completing this work and speak to your class teacher if you have any queries or questions relating to homework.

Spellings: Just a reminder that spellings are handed out each week on a Thursday, to be tested in school the following Wednesday. The words the children receive are based on the sounds your child has been learning in phonics that week so they will be familiar to the children. Please support your child by practising the words at home.

Additional Maths Work: We are often asked by parents if there are other ways in which you can support your child's learning at home. An important area of Maths in Year 1 is quick recall of number bonds to 10. This means pairs of numbers that equal all numbers up to and including 10. This obviously covers a huge amount of addition sums and so your help would be greatly valued. If you have a few spare minutes on the walk/drive to school, children often love a game of 'quick fire': ask them 5 to 10 addition sums and challenge them to see how quickly they can give you the answer. There's a great game for this online, on a website called Topmarks. Search for 'Hit the Button', click on 'number bonds' and then 'make 10' or 'within 10'. If your child likes a challenge, they will love trying to beat themselves at this game!



Attendance: Attendance is very important to us in Year 1, as we love to be rewarded the prize of looking after 'Attendance Bear' for a week! Please help us to be the best class each week by ensuring that children are in school and **on time** each day.



Thank you! We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all of the gifts that you sent in for Christmas. We were very touched by your kindness.

Thank you
Mrs Bryan, Mrs Bidwell, Mrs Little and Mrs Fairbrother