

Year 1 Curriculum Letter
Autumn Term 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 1. This letter is to provide you with information about the work your child will be doing this Autumn term.

Language and Literacy

The children will learn most of their formal English through the Ruth Miskin Literacy Programme (**Read, Write Inc.**). They will be starting to form sentences independently and have sessions to improve their handwriting. The language work completed in school encourages children to develop their reading and writing skills through carefully planned activities based on stories and non-fiction books. When your child brings home a book from their phonics lesson, please remind them to bring it to school every day in their book bags. We encourage children to read a variety of books that will include home reading, shared reading in class and library books. Every **Friday** your child will have the opportunity to visit the class library and choose a book to share with you at home.

Your child's **Reading Diary** should be used when reading at home, and will be a useful form of communication between school and home.

The children have weekly writing lessons which link to the reading that they have been doing during the week.

We will continue to encourage the children to improve their speaking and listening skills through lots of questions. This can be continued out of school in their home language.

Mathematics

This year in Maths, Year 1 children will be developing their understanding of the Number system and Place Value. In addition to this, they will learn and practise a range of addition and subtraction skills, beginning to multiply and divide. The children will continue to learn about shape, be introduced to fractions and begin to use standard measures to record accurately. They will also be taking part in daily **5 Minute Maths** sessions which will enable them to become confident with the calendar and different types of pattern work.

Non-Core Curriculum

Science

In Science, children will be studying *Plants and how they grow*. As part of this study, we will be learning to recognise types of plants and trees, identify the differences between deciduous and evergreen trees and leaves, and to know the parts of a plant. Children will also plan an investigation to identify what plants need to grow. After half term, children will be learning about *Seasons and Weather*. This will include being able to identify the weathers associated with each season, and the changes that plants and animals undergo in preparation for this.

History

In History the children will learn about the period called the Ice Age when large areas of Britain were covered in ice and before our island became separated from the European mainland. They will learn about the daily lives of those early people and the animals that lived here during this time. Later they will investigate the people of the prehistoric Stone Age by exploring their homes, daily life and beliefs.

Geography

In Geography the children will begin to develop their spatial awareness by using maps and map-making. They will use simple compass directions (North, South, East and West) and locational and directional language (for example, near and far, left and right), to describe the location of features and routes on a map around the school and local area. Through a study of the Galapagos Islands, they will develop their place knowledge by studying the geographical similarities and differences of these islands with the United Kingdom.

Art

In Art the children will learn about the recognised elements of art by introducing them to the basic elements of colour and line. Children will recognise and use different kinds of lines and colours, investigating the lines and colours they see around them, in everything from the built environment to the natural world. They will examine significant works of art that demonstrate the use of colour and lines to convey feelings, atmosphere, movement and mood.

Music

In Music the children will learn through activities that illustrate important musical concepts and terms, and will be introduced to introduce important composers and works. They will explore the concept of beat as the basic rhythmic unit of a measure, or bar. Next they will learn about the concept of pitch as being the position of a single sound in the complete range of sound.

R.E.

This term we will be looking at how different religions are thankful for the earth's resources. This will focus around a number of religions and how they perceive things in their own special way. It is important that children learn about other people's beliefs and cultures. This means that we learn to value each other. The children will also look at how light is used as a symbol within religious stories and fables.

Information, Communication Technology

The children will practice logging on to the computer and starting a programme independently. They will be using word processing software to create and print their names and other labels in different sizes, fonts and colours. They will also use art software to build upon their computer skills to create pictures. The children will also have the opportunity to use programmable toys to navigate around various obstacles and provide instructions to ICT equipment.

P.E.

In gymnastics we will be focusing on basic skills and how to develop them into sequence involving two movements. In games lessons we will be exploring different ways of using a ball such as throwing and catching to develop basic game playing skills. We remind you that children need a red polo shirt, navy blue shorts, black or navy tracksuit bottoms and plimsolls for P.E lessons. These should be kept in a drawstring bag and should all be labelled with your child's name.

Emerald class's P.E lessons will take place on a **Monday** and **Tuesday**.

Jade class's P.E lessons will take place on a **Monday** and **Friday**.

P.E kits need to be in school on all of these days. Please remember that long hair should be tied back and **no jewellery** should be worn on P.E. days for safety reasons.

Homework

Following our change in policy, homework will not be sent home regularly each week. Some children may receive targeted homework, but most children will receive spellings and library books to take home. We encourage you to work together with them on these. If you are searching for additional tasks please refer to your child's pupil profile targets for personal focus areas. Times tables are also a focus for the whole school, and practise at home really helps. Please make use of the childrens' Sumdog accounts.

Read Aloud

The Read Aloud 2017 initiative was launched in February 2017, and encourages children and their parents to read aloud for at least 15 minutes each day. Children will record the minutes they read each night on a reading record that will be sent home. Reading plays an integral part of your child's learning so get involved!

Supporting your child's learning

There are many ways you can help support your child's learning at home:

- Reading stories to them and listen to them read regularly
- Regular visits to the local library
- Simple mathematical questions
- Discussions around what they have been doing in and out of school
- Web games
- Internet

Some useful websites: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/>
<http://www.mathszone.co.uk/>
<http://www.oup.com/oxed/primary/mms/>
<http://www.andrelleducation.co.uk>

Reminders

- It is essential you send a letter clearly stating who will be picking up your child if you are unable to. If it is short notice please contact the office directly. We will not be releasing children to any adults unknown to us, even if the child knows them.
- Please ensure we have current telephone and mobile numbers and the emergency contact details are up to date.
- Please ensure that your child brings their **book bag** and **water bottle** to school every day.
- It is a parents/carers responsibility to ensure a child is in school on time every day.
- Please ensure that school uniform is followed accurately. An essential list has been sent out but you can obtain one from the school office too.

We hope you find the above information useful, if you have any questions please feel free to approach one of us.

Alice Baggaley, Rachel Wheeler and Ceylan Ibrahim

Year 1 Teachers