

## Spring Term 2020 – Curriculum Letter for children in Year 1

Dear Parents,

Happy New Year and welcome back! The children have jumped back into school life with great enthusiasm. Below is an overview of what will be covered this term.

School Values:



Our core value this term is CURIOSITY. We want to instil a love of learning and a sense of wonder in all children. This term we will be focusing on encouraging them to explore, ask questions and to try new things. Curious children build a love of learning, far beyond the walls of the classroom.

### English

During this term the children will be learning new vocabulary and grammar through traditional tales from around the world, eventually writing their own version of one of these stories. After this we will focus on Superheroes and comics as part of our topic, working cross curricular with art to make their own strips. Finally, Year 1 will create a class non-fiction book about fire engines as a nod to everyday heroes. We will continue with our daily phonics or spelling sessions first thing in the morning to prepare for the Phonics Screening Check.

We will also be holding our annual Poetry Competition this term. All children will be given a poem on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February. They will have to learn the poem off by heart and recite it in front of the class. They will be judged on recitation, volume, expression and performance. I will hear Year 1 perform on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February and then the shortlisted children will perform in front of the whole school during the Poetry Assembly on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March.

### Maths

During the first half of this term, Year 1 is learning to add and subtract within 20, using many of the methods demonstrated in the recent Parent Information Evening. This will be followed by a couple of weeks on place value up to 50, which will include counting in 2s, 5s and 10s!

After half term we will finish place value up to 50 and turn our attention to measurement: length, height, weight and volume. This should provide a good excuse to bake lots of cakes! The children will also have an opportunity to learn more about handling money during Silver Coin Week, which will be starting on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

## Science:

This term the children will be learning about every day materials and their properties. This will help them in their topic lessons where they will be designing outfits for heroes. We will continue to observe how the seasons change, and how the local environment changes with them. Science week will start on the 9<sup>th</sup> March, with the Science Challenge on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March.

## Music

The children will use voices, movement and instruments to explore different ways that music can be used to describe the weather. After half term the children will explore beat through movement, body percussion and instruments. They will combine steady beat with word rhythms and explore changes in tempo.

## Concept Curriculum

See attached curriculum web.

## Wellbeing Curriculum

### PE (Physical Education)

Please make sure your child has their full PE kit and Mile a Day shoes in school every day. Every item of clothing in the PE kit should be labelled with your child's name. This half term the children will be developing their gymnastics skills using small and large apparatus. After half term the children will be developing basic orienteering skills and associated physical skills in a fun and exciting manner. These sessions also focus on personal, social and cognitive abilities such as following instructions; working positively within a team; challenging ourselves and supporting and encouraging others.

### PSHE (Personal, Social and Emotional Development)

As well as being woven throughout the curriculum and enhanced during regular 'well-being' assemblies, the children will continue to participate in a weekly PSHE lesson which follows the 'Jigsaw' scheme. The 'Puzzle Pieces' for this term are:

Dreams and Goals- This focuses on the children setting goals and working towards these, even when faced with a challenge. The children will think about how they can help others to achieve their goals and will learn to work as part of a group. They will also talk about how it makes them feel when they achieve what they set out to do.

Healthy Me- The children will learn about ways in which they can maintain a healthy lifestyle and how they can motivate others to also do so. This unit also covers work related to medicine and road safety.

## RE (Religious Education)

During the first half of the term the children will be looking at friendship and the friends of Jesus. They will learn stories from the Bible which relate to this theme, including the story of Zacchaeus. We will also be celebrating Chinese New Year. In the second half of the term they will be learning about the story of Easter with a focus on Palm Sunday. The Easter Bonnet parade will be on the last day of term.

## PLEASE REMEMBER!!

- The children will continue to change their own books. Reading a book **twice** is good practise to develop fluency and understanding of a text. Please write in the diary and tell your child if you wish to keep the book again. Well done to those who do this already!
- We have PE on a **Wednesday** and **Friday** afternoon. Please ensure the PE kit is at school on those days (it should be kept in school every day) and that all items of your child's PE kit are clearly named.
- On **Wednesday** we have our weekly spelling test. New spelling words will be handed out on **Fridays**. Please use this as an opportunity to practise handwriting and broadening their vocabulary.
- The children will have the opportunity to practise crucial skills as soon as they come in to school and before their first lesson so **please arrive at school before 8:50**.
- **Thursday** = Library day! Remember to bring in your library book.
- **Phonics packs** should be practised every day (little and often). These will be tested once a week. Use online games like *Picnic on Pluto* or *Buried Treasure* to practise reading isolated phonetic words.
- It is important that your child **reads** aloud to an adult **every day**. When your child is fluent, you should also ask them to read a **section quietly in their head** and discuss it afterwards to check their understanding. You can support your child further by reading to your child from books beyond their reading ability, sharing books and talking about the story. **PLEASE** remember to update your child's reading diary as we do check this daily!!

I look forward to another exciting term!

Miss Tolmie