

Year 1 Spring Term Newsletter

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to school for the beginning of the spring term 2018!

Outlined below are some areas of the curriculum that we will be covering in Year 1 this term. You may wish to go to the library and find out more about some of the topic areas.

English

In English this term we will be continuing with our Read Write Inc scheme. A copy of the Read Write Inc book your child is reading will be sent home in a plastic wallet. This must come into school with your child every day. Spelling quizzes will also be set within the child's Read Write Inc group. Please note, not every Read Write Inc. group will have a spelling quiz.

We will also continue to send home another book for the children to read at home. Please try to hear your child read for at least five minutes every night; talk about the story and ask questions like 'what happens when...' and 'who are the characters...', 'what happens first..?' etc. This will help your child to make real progress.

In Year 1 we continue to work on forming all of our letters correctly and encourage cursive handwriting. Please help your child at home to practise this new skill. We also encourage the children to write in 'golden sentences'. This helps remind the children to use finger spaces, capital letters and full stops. It is important for children to read back their writing to check it makes sense.

Maths

In Maths this term we will be continuing to practice addition and subtraction skills. We will be counting in steps of 2, 5 and 10 and counting on from one number to another and recording how many steps we have made. We will be counting forwards and backwards from numbers up to 50. Understanding what each digit in a number means is very important. For example 45 is made up of 4 tens and 5 ones. We will be doing lots of work on 'place value' this term. Please encourage your child to say and write numbers correctly especially numbers from 10 to 100 and ask them to tell you how many tens and ones are in a number. It is also important that your child takes care not to reverse their numbers. We will be continuing our weekly Big Maths Quizzes.

Topic

This term we shall be teaching different subjects through two topics. This half term our topic in Year 1 is 'Houses and Homes'. In this History topic we will be thinking about what makes a home and comparing Victorian homes to modern day homes. We will also be comparing household appliances used in Victorian times and how these have changed.

After half term our topic will be Australia. We will be looking at maps, identifying human and physical features and comparing these with the United Kingdom.

Science

In our Science lessons in Spring Term we shall be looking at different materials. We will be naming materials such as wood, metal, plastic and thinking carefully about the properties of these materials, where we find them and how they are used in houses around the world. To support your child's learning you could go on a materials hunt at home. What materials can you find? What is made of glass? What is made of plastic? How can you describe these materials? We will also be talking about recycling and looking at recycled materials and learning more about 'being green'.

Reminders

Year 1 classes have P.E. on a Tuesday and Thursday/Friday. Please can you make sure your child has a P.E. kit in school, please also make sure that each item is **labelled** with your child's name. It must be a plain white T-shirt/West Hill t-shirt, navy blue shorts or tracksuit bottoms as well as black plimsolls.

Reading books are changed at different points in the week, so please ensure your child has their book bag in school every day in order to take their books home safely. The children can also take books home from the class library each week.

Home challenges will be set on Fridays and are due in on a Wednesday. Please continue to help your children to complete their home challenges.

Termly home challenges are also sent home at the beginning of term and should be completed over the course of the term and not within the first couple of weeks.

Please remember that we are a healthy school and birthday treats should be limited to individual cakes for the children and can be handed out by the parent and child at the end of school. Please be aware that we are a 'nut free' school.

Finally, we continue to ask for a voluntary contribution of £1 a week. This money goes into a class fund which is used to pay towards any trips that we may go on throughout the year.

We thank you for support,

Sarah Gunstone (Green Park Class Teacher) and Lucy Hanford (Holborn Class teacher)