

# Year 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to school for the beginning of the Summer Term 2016!

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.

## Literacy

In Literacy 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.

We will also continue to send home another book for the children to read at home and a library book. Please try to hear your child read for at least five minutes every night; talk about the story and ask questions such as 'what happened at the start of the story?' and 'how did the character feel when...', 'how do you know...?' etc. This will help to develop your child's comprehension skills. 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, however, continue to encourage your child to use their phonics to spell new words at home.

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. When writing we encourage the children to 'think the sentence', 'say the sentence', 'write the sentence' and finally 'check the sentence'. It is important the children check their writing makes sense and that they have written a golden sentence using finger spaces, a capital letter and a full stop.

## Numeracy

In Numeracy this term we will be continuing to practice addition and subtraction skills using everyday objects, pictures and then moving onto number lines and 100 squares. Please work on number bonds to 10 and 20 at home with your child, for example,  $3 + 7 = 10$ ,  $13 + 7 = 20$ . We will also be looking at doubling, halving and quartering amounts and introducing the children to the written fractions  $\frac{1}{2}$  and  $\frac{1}{4}$ . You could ask you child to help you halve or quarter a shape or a set of objects at home to help their understanding of this.

In preparation for Year 2 we will be looking at fact families. For example, using the numbers 6, 2 and 8 you can create the following calculations:

$6 + 2 = 8$ ,  $2 + 6 = 8$ ,  $8 - 2 = 6$  and  $8 - 6 = 2$ . Try to encourage your children to create addition and subtractions using 3 numbers at home. Using objects to solve these will really help your children's understanding.

## Enquiry based Curriculum

This term we shall be teaching different subjects through two topics. This half term our topic in Year 1 is 'The Great Fire of London'. In this History topic we will be thinking about how the Great Fire started, what happened to London during this time and how London was rebuilt. We will also be learning about Samuel Pepys and his diary.

After half term our topic will be 'Journey to the UK'. We shall be learning about the four countries in the UK and thinking about their different traditions. We will also be thinking about the different ways we can travel around the UK including by car, boat, train, plane etc.

### Science

In Science this half term we shall be finding out all about plants and how they grow. We will be looking closely at the plants around us and learning about what they need to grow. We will also think about which plants we can eat. We shall be growing our own runner beans and hope to plant them outside in the school vegetable patch. Talk to your children about the different plants can you see on the way to school. Maybe you could plant something at home?

### Reminders

Both Year 1 classes now have P.E. on **Tuesday** and **Friday** this half term. However, we kindly ask that your child keeps their P.E kit in school throughout the week. West Hill PE kits are now available to buy in the school office. If buying elsewhere it must be a plain white 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.

Year 1 homework will be set on Fridays and is due in on a Wednesday. This includes a Numeracy piece and either a Science or Topic related piece of homework. Inside your child's Homework folder there are a list of Summer Home Challenges. These are extra challenges that your child may wish to complete throughout the Summer term. Please continue to help your children to complete their homework.

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 at the end of 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,

Sam Wilson (Elm Class teacher) and Steve Zealey (Bay Class teacher)