

Year 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to school for the beginning of the spring 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. 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 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 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.

Numeracy

In Numeracy 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.

Enquiry based Curriculum

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 'Rivers'. We shall be finding out about the water cycle and rivers around the United Kingdom. We will also be finding out about the artist David Hockney and creating some of our own water paintings.

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? Draw a picture and bring it into school. We will also be visiting the recycling centre this term to look at recycled materials and learn more about 'being green'. We will be making our own piggy bank out of reused milk cartons. Please bring in washed out milk cartons of any size for our piggy banks!

Reminders

Both Year 1 classes have P.E. on Mondays and Fridays. Please can you make sure your child has a P.E. kit in school on these days. 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.

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

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.

Finally we thank you for support,

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