

Year 1 Autumn Term Newsletter

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Welcome to the start of Year 1 and the new school year, Autumn term 2016! Outlined below are some areas of the curriculum we will be covering this half term.

Literacy

In Literacy this term we will be continuing with the scheme called Read Write Inc. which your child started in Reception. This scheme is designed to support and accelerate children's skills in decoding and interpreting texts. 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 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. We shall also be continuing to build a sight vocabulary of words which we can read on sight without the need to blend. 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 skill. Please show your child how to join their spellings for the week. Use the spellings in sentences and encourage your child to join their handwriting.

Numeracy

In Numeracy this term we will be counting forwards and backwards up to 100. We shall be practising addition and subtraction skills to 10 and beyond, as well as counting in steps of 2, 5 and 10. We will be counting on from one number to another and recording how many steps we have made. For example the difference between 7 and 10 is 3.

It is important that the children understand what each digit in a number means. For example $45 = 4 \text{ tens and } 5 \text{ ones} = 40 + 5$. Try filling in missing number lines. Please encourage your child to write numbers correctly. Also try and encourage your child to learn all number bonds to 10, for example, $6 + 4 = 10$, $7 + 3 = 10$.

Enquiry Based Curriculum

Our topic this half term will be 'All About Me'. We shall also be looking at our families and will try to draw family trees. We shall be looking at faces and will learn how to produce a portrait. We will be learning about our local environment

and finding out all about Wandsworth. We shall be going on a walk around Wandsworth and finding out who lives here, who works here and looking at the uses of some of the buildings in the area. You could go to the library or look on the internet for more information!

Science

In Science this term we will be looking at 'Animals Including Humans'. The children will be finding out how we change as we grow older. Please could you let your child bring a photo to school of when they were a baby or toddler to compare them with how they are now. We will also be looking at what parts of our body we use to see, smell, taste and hear with. We will also be learning about different types of animals and their characteristics.

Reminders

Year 1 Bay class has P.E. on Tuesdays and Fridays. Year 1 Elm class has P.E. on Mondays and Fridays. Please can you make sure your child has a P.E. kit in school on these days. However, we suggest that your child keeps their P.E kit in school during term time. 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 as part of the Read Write Inc. programme, 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. There will also be extra optional home challenges your child can complete throughout the term.

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. We have a number of children with allergies so please do not bring anything into school that contains nuts. 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 go on throughout the year.

Thank you for your support,

Miss Gunstone and Kirsten (Year 1 Bay Class teacher and teaching assistant)

Miss Hanford and Heather (Year 1 Elm Class teacher and teaching assistant)