

Year 1 Newsletter – Autumn Term 2



Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you all had a restful Autumn break. We would like to start by saying how proud we are of all children for their ongoing enthusiasm for learning and for the progress they have already made. Children have settled in extremely well to our daily routines and we hope to keep the momentum going with a busy half term ahead!

The following is an overview of what your child will be taught in the second half of the Autumn term, as well as general timetabling information. Our overall big question continues to be '**How do humans look after themselves and each other?**' We will be discussing this in class and making links throughout the curriculum to deepen our responses.

In **English**, we will begin with a fiction book '*Winter Sleep*' we will be comparing a setting in the summer to a setting in the winter as part of our overall topic of weather and seasons. We will write the story of animals in winter with a focus on adding the suffix 'ing' to the end of a verb. Later in the half term we will be reading Non-Fiction books about weather, and we will write our own information reports about different types of weather. Finally, before Christmas we will be reading '*Stickman*' and writing a postcard in role. Our daily **Reading** programs of daily Daily Supported Reading (DSR) and Jolly Phonics continue in small groups. Whilst children use their phonics to 'sound it out', in DSR children learn to use the skill of 'point and read', identify tricky words and high-frequency words as well as make connections with the text.

Our **Maths** focus this half-term will be on addition and subtraction within 10. We will be learning to identify the parts of a whole and use this information to create fact families and then addition and subtraction number sentences using symbols e.g $3+2=5$, $5-3=2$). Crucially children will become familiar with number bonds to 10 and we would encourage you to reinforce this knowledge at home ($1+9=10$, $2+8=10$ etc). To support with adding and subtraction, we will use number lines to count forwards and backwards, cubes (to practically add and take away), part-whole models and also pictures to cross out to subtract. At this stage, we are only adding / subtracting one or two from a number. We will also be learning to name and describe the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. We will focus on different ways we could sort shapes, using the language of their properties to explain our choices.



Our **Geography** topic is 'Weather'. We will learn about the different types of weather in the UK and that our country has a temperate climate. Linking to Science, we will then learn to associate the weather with the four seasons before comparing the UK climate with tropical and polar climates.

Our **Science** topic links with Geography as we are learning about the seasons. We will be focusing on the changes that happen between Autumn and Winter, learning about what animals do in Winter and how they are adapted to the cold. On **Thursday 7th November** we will be going on a local area walk in the afternoon to observe the signs of Autumn - please pop the date in your diary if you are able to join and let us know!

In **Music** we will be using our bodies and instruments to create pieces of music linked to each season. We will think about rhythm, and which instruments would best represent different types of weather.

In **Computing**, we will talk about online safety and being kind online. Then children will also learn how to program Code-a-Pillars and Beebots and make weather maps in PurpleMash.

Finally, our "big question" in **Religious Education** this term is: *'Why is each person in the Nativity important?'* In this unit we will look at each character from the Nativity story and what they represent. We will learn how important each person is to the story and discuss which character is most important to us.

We continue to have PE on **Fridays**, and we are very excited to have our **swimming lessons** on **Tuesdays**. Please help your child to take on more responsibility for dressing and undressing. Our swimming slot is in the afternoon so please do not send your child to school wearing their swimsuit!

Our **Homework** will continue as weekly spellings and reading. **Spelling tests** are on **Mondays** and your child has their own **reading day** assigned for their books to be changed. Please see the separate attachments for the spellings and the ideas for your project homework activities to choose from and complete as a family.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have questions.

Best wishes,

Year 1 Team

