Year 1 Newsletter – Autumn Term 1

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome!

Firstly, we would like to wish you a very warm welcome to Year 1. We hope that you had an enjoyable and restful summer break. We are all looking forward to the year ahead and the children have already made a brilliant start! The Year One Team is comprised of Mrs Shurmer, Miss Hughes, Colleen, Rosemarie and Marta. Mrs Shurmer and Miss Hughes will have scheduled time out of class for planning – this time will be covered by Kledion (PE Coach) and Lou.

What does our learning look like?

In Year 1 we begin each day with morning work. This will consist of reading, handwriting, maths and phonics. After the register we have our daily Phonics lesson, following the Jolly Phonics programme. In **English**, we use a text as a focus for our learning over a period of weeks. For example, we will begin by reading, 'The Gingerbread Man'. We will read this book as a whole class and work towards building sentences to describe characters in the story. Our key aim in writing is to form lower-case and upper-case letters, write on the line and use finger spaces and full stops. Here is the sound mat that we use in class to help to sound words out:



After break, we have our **Maths** lessons. We usually begin with counting songs and games. Our focus this half-term will be on number and place value within 10. We will consolidate our counting skills with 1:1 correspondence, learn to identify which number is greater/smaller, order numbers, count forwards and backwards, find one more and one less and become confident using the number line. You can support your child at home by playing number/counting games as well as ensuring they can form their numbers in the correct direction – check they always begin writing the number from the top!



In the afternoons we begin with a topic lesson, and then to ease the transition from Reception into Year 1, we continue with a 'carousel' style of activities that they are familiar with. During this time, we have a range of activities that support their learning, and children have the opportunity to 'free-flow' between the Year 1 classrooms and outside space. Here is an outline of our learning in each subject:

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Our **History** topic is 'Toys'. We will be learning all about how toys have changed over time. Children will sort old from new toys, looking at the materials used and be able to explain how toys have developed since the Victorian times. We encourage families to discuss toys from your own childhoods. On the week of Monday 9th September, children will have the opportunity to bring in a toy from home to share with the class during their Topic lesson – this could even be a parent's old toy to share! Please can this be provided in a bag clearly labelled with your child's name – we will store them safely.

In **Science**, our topic will be 'Animals including Humans'. We will be naming and sorting animals as well as learning to label the different parts of our bodies and thinking about what they are used for.

In **Music**, children will have the chance to engage in lots of different practical activities involving vocal and percussion sounds – this half term the children will focus on the unit 'Ourselves'.

In **Design and Technology**, children will be making moving parts for toys and pictures focussing on slider mechanisms. We will make parts to help retell the story of The Gingerbread Man.

Finally, our "big question" in **Religious Education** this term is: 'What responsibility has God given people for taking care of the world?' In this unit, children will learn about the Creation Story from the Bible, what it means to be made in God's image and how we can take responsibility for looking after the Earth.

Key information:

The school gates open at 8.45am and the school day officially begins at 9am. We request your support with punctuality as we begin phonics groups at 9.00am. Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly labelled. Children should bring their own water bottle to school, which should also be labelled.

Our class **PE day will be Tuesday** for both classes. Children should come to school wearing their PE kit and will remain in their kit all day. Our PE kit comprises of a white T-shirt or polo shirt, navy shorts or tracksuit bottoms and black trainers or plimsolls. We will let you know when we will begin group swimming lessons!

Big Question: Each Term, we have a key question to focus our learning. Our question this term is **'How does a human take care of themselves and each other?'** Please support by discussing this at home too.

Homework:

- Children will have a weekly **spelling test on Fridays.** Please practise your child's spellings each week. We will send their spelling scores home each Monday (or Tuesday if we've had a very busy day!) You will find two sets of spellings attached. The green spellings are the main set of spellings – if your child is really struggling with these then please practice the blue spellings instead.
- A project homework is set each half term. For this, you should complete one (or more!) of a set of activities that link to our curriculum. This homework should be brought into class as soon as you have completed it. Once completed, your child will share their project homework during the related weekly topic lesson. All projects are then displayed in a whole-school assembly in the final week of half term.

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- Children will be given a **reading book** which will be changed weekly – they will be assigned a day of the week on which their book will be changed which will be displayed on the classroom door. Please read to/with your child every day and encourage your child to read by themselves as well.

We are really looking forward to teaching your children and getting to know them – please don't hesitate to discuss anything with us regarding your child!

Best wishes,

Mrs Shurmer and Miss Hughes

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