

Curriculum News

Autumn Term 1



We hope that you have had a lovely summer. The key stage 1 team consisting of Mrs. Marshall, Mrs Parry, Miss Cornelius, Mrs. Pasmore, Ms Morris and Mrs Fincher are all very excited to be back. With a new academic year and new curriculum brings opportunities to 'discover, develop and maximise potential'. Below is an outline of what your child will be learning during the first half term. Our new topic for this half term is 'Oh help, oh no what is a Gruffalo?' More details later in the newsletter!

English

This half term the main focus will be writing clearly demarcated sentences with correct letter formation (Capital letters and accurate use of punctuation) (Yr1) and using extended noun phrases (Yr2).

Children's learning will be based around 'Stories by Julia Donaldson'. Children will begin the term by reading, listening and responding to texts written by our focus author. Children will experience some firm favourites as well as some unfamiliar texts. Lessons will be enhanced using visual literacy, outdoor experiences, the use of ICT, drama and dance. Children will also write their own story after learning and changing one that we have looked at together.

Children will be using their labels, lists and captions knowledge during topic work and they will also create fact-files about specific animal characters.

We will continue to work very hard to ensure correct formation of all letters and support from home would be very much appreciated. Letter formation mats will be included with the first Brain Builder of the term.

Noun phrases = we will be teaching children to add description by using adjectives

Maths

We will be beginning the term with a focus on number, measure, geometry and in Yr2 statistics. In order to support your child with number confidence can we please request that mental maths (recall of addition and subtraction facts to 20 is really important) and reading are practised on a daily basis at home.

Year 1 children will be working hard to correctly form each of the 10 digits.

There will also be a focus upon understanding the value of a number. Counting objects at home would be beneficial.

Just a little each day really does make a huge difference. Please remember that board games, dominoes, cards and dice games are all good ways to practise maths at home and that every child has a password to access web based Education-City.

Geometry formally known as shape and space. Statistics was called data handling

Topic

With the introduction of a new academic year, comes new and exciting learning opportunities! Each topic will have a specific curriculum focus. Our topic for the first half of the autumn term is 'Oh help, oh no, what is a Gruffalo?' The curriculum focus being Science, Art and Dance.

Children will learn how to sort and classify animals, according to scientific characteristics. Children will consider what animals, including pets, need to survive and discuss what dinosaurs would have needed and why they and other animals become extinct.

The unit will culminate in the children debating, deciding and explaining how they would classify a Gruffalo if they were to ever find him in the deep, dark wood.

Our art focus will be on skills and techniques associated with weaving and children will have some exciting opportunities to practise these skills both small and large scale, indoors and out. Any donations of wool would be appreciated.

In RE this term we are exploring the question 'Who is Jewish and what do they believe?' The children will talk about the fact that Jewish people believe in God and recognise that some Jewish people remember God in different ways (e.g. mezuzah, on Shabbat).

They will explore why Jewish people have a mezuzah, talk about how Shabbat is a special day for Jewish people and retell a story that shows what Jewish people think about during a festival. They will have the opportunity to make links between some Jewish teachings and how Jewish people live and express their own ideas about the value of times of reflection, thanksgiving, praise and remembrance.



Computing

Children in KS1 will be taught the importance of e-safety before getting practical experience of designing and writing computer programmes so that they understand the basic principles of computer science.

Chances are your child will get to grips with coding far more quickly than adults, but if you don't want to get left behind, here's where you can get help.

Codecademy – a great starting point to get familiar with code for free.

Scratch – learn to program your own interactive stories, games and animations and share them around the world.

The **Tynker** iPad app is free and offers coding puzzles and games to get you started.



The following donations would be gratefully received:

- Old newspapers
- Wool, buttons, ribbon etc.
- Old wax crayons (doesn't matter how small)
- Parent/s to hear children read any day 9.00-9.30

(CRB/DBS cleared, forms available from the office)

Polite Reminders

- Please ensure NAMED PE kits are in school at all times.
- Break times are important and weather can be inclement, please pack a coat/waterproof for your child's comfort – even if you travel by car!
- Ensure you send your child with a named drink, particularly on the days that they have hot lunches.
- Forest School for all Year One children will be on a Friday, please refer to the Forest School letter for further details and specific dates.
- Children can change their library books as often as they like as the library is open every morning. If you wish, your child can go into the library on their own as there is an adult supervising each morning.
- If you do use the library before school **please DO NOT hang up coats, bags and belongings** in the cloakrooms or allow your child to enter classrooms unless you are meeting with a class teacher.
- **The new curriculum emphasises that mental maths should be 'on the boil' all of the time and children should read 'ferociously' for pleasure away from school, if you need any support please feel free to catch us at your earliest convenience.**

Many thanks KS1 Team