



Year 1 Class – Autumn Term Newsletter 2020

Dear Year 1 Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new term and the new academic year! We have been so impressed at how quickly the children have settled back in to school and united as a whole class again. They are such a lovely class and we are really looking forward to supporting them with their learning and development this year.

The whole school has used the book *Here We Are* by Oliver Jeffers to launch the year with a common theme. This has given us the chance to talk about what we love about the world and what we want to know more about. We have explored how we feel about being back in school and reminded everyone about our golden rules and how important kindness, respect, trying our best and keeping safe are. The book has given us the chance to explore our appreciation of nature, and remind us that there are always people around to help us.

Every class in school has been timetabled with a number of sessions each day in the outside areas in school – the allotment, field, wooded area and playgrounds. We are really lucky to be able to have such lovely outdoor spaces to use and we will be making the most of these to ensure the children get plenty of fresh air and exercise between classroom-based learning. We will be teaching outside as much as is possible too. With that in mind it would be a good idea to always send your child into school with a cardigan or jumper and a raincoat.

We have a busy term ahead, so here is some key information about the learning topics we have to look forward to.

Curriculum focus

This term our main topic will be 'London' where we will be learning about its landmarks, its history, and the people who live there. We will also link this learning to our Science topic. We may even have some Zoom guests telling us more about it. If you have any resources or books that can support the children's learning please do let us know. Maybe you could talk to your children about any links your family has with London.

Maths

Our maths sessions will focus on supporting the children to re-activate all their prior learning as well as starting the curriculum for their current year. We will spend the first few weeks looking at place value and number work as this is so important for supporting other learning later in the year. Other key areas for Year 1 in the autumn term are counting up and back, estimating, number patterns such as doubling, and odd and even numbers. We will use the language of, and teach, addition and subtraction, including solving problems.

If you want to support Maths at home, the key skills from Reception to check and practice are: can they accurately count objects in rows and irregular clumps? Can they see the side of a dice and know the number without counting? Can they recognise all the numerals to 10, or even 20?

English

This term our fiction and non-fiction writing units will all be based on books. We are using the 'back on track' materials developed by County to support the children with their writing across different genres. We know, from the parent survey results, that this is an area many parents have identified as a focus for children now they are back in school.

The children have all read with us and we hope they are enjoying their new books from the library and from our book-banded readers. We are also checking what phonics sounds each child remembers and teaching daily phonics to re-awaken their decoding skills. Each week we will do small group Guided Reading sessions to use these skills and talk about books we read. Book-banded books will be changed on **Tuesdays**. We encourage you to write a brief comment on their reading so that we can ensure the books chosen give the best level of confidence building and stretch. At this stage, reading to your child is just as important as them having a go themselves so please do continue to enjoy sharing stories together often.

As always, we will ensure we support all children's individual needs in a variety of ways. Additional support, individualised learning and intervention will continue in the children's bubbles. We will share any further information if necessary, with parents in due course.

PE

In PE this term we will be doing a combination of games to develop ball skills, team building, moving (such as running and jumping skills), personal space and dance. We may also link PE to other areas of the curriculum: for instance, running to an even number or collecting words with a given sound as fast as you can.

PE will nearly always take place on Mondays as we have a dedicated hall slot to take the children in or out as the weather dictates. A second day for a PE lesson is likely to vary as we take advantage of the weather and lead sessions outside. Therefore, it is important that the children have a **full** PE kit with them every day, including a long-sleeved top to keep them warm (e.g. a hoodie) and trainers for outdoor PE work. We suggest children with long hair keep it tied back for school or at least have a hair tie with them for PE. PE kits will be sent home to be washed at the end of the week and **then need to be returned the following Monday**. Thank you.

Homework

In line with our homework policy, home learning will focus on reading, spelling and maths skills. We will be setting our first homework task next week and will be using on-line platforms for this. We will remind all parents of any usernames and passwords that they need. Setting our home learning in this way will support us all in being prepared should the children need to continue their learning at home.

Unfortunately, for now, there are no class assembly dates. However, we will share with you details and photographs of the children's learning in the whole school newsletters on a regular basis.

I hope that this information is helpful to you, but please do contact us via email or phone if there is anything at all you want to discuss.

Kind regards from our Year 1 team,

Diane Simoneau, Rachel Rowe, Shirley Downey, and Sham Ali