



Friday 17th September 2021

Year 1 – Red Class Newsletter – Autumn Term 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the new term and a new school year. The children have settled back into school incredibly well and have made a fantastic start to learning in Year 1. We are really looking forward to supporting them with their learning and development this year. The Year 1 teaching team this year is being led by Diane Simoneau (Monday to Wednesday) & Rachel Rowe (Thursday to Friday) and they will be supported by Shirley Downey (full-time) as well as Mortuza Mohammed, Andi Yoxall, and Lorraine Reynolds on different days throughout the week.

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

Curriculum

Having completed the Early Years Foundation Stage, the children in Year 1 follow the National Curriculum which for key stage 1 consists of English (including phonics), maths, science, design and technology, history, geography, art and design, music, physical education (PE) and computing. We also teach PSHCE (personal, social, health, citizenship and economic education). Each term we tend to have a key topic which brings together learning in lots of the different subject areas. This term we will be learning about maps and the UK, the Continents, Climates & extreme weather as well as what it is like to be a historian. That will include learning about timelines for themselves and family. The **Medium-Term Overview** provides more details about the English, Maths and Science focus areas for this term.

We have started the year by looking at a book called Here We Are by Oliver Jeffers. 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.

Homework & Reading Books

In terms of reading, all children are expected to bring their reading books and Reading records to school every day and should be reading at home to an adult or older sibling regularly. Please write a brief note in your child's reading record to let us know how they are getting on with their book and when they are ready for a new one. It is ok to re-read the same book a few times as this helps develop fluency in reading. Books will be collected on a Wednesday afternoon and new ones issued on a Thursday.

As well as reading at home, homework will be set once a week on a Wednesday. In line with our homework policy, home learning will focus on reading, spelling and maths skills. From time to time it

may also include an activity from another area of the curriculum. As they will usually need your help to access this it will often include something to show or talk to you about. Homework will be put on the Year 1 Google Classroom Page every Wednesday and will need to be turned in by the following Wednesday. (If google classrooms is new to you then please don't worry - we will help you out!) Paper copies of the homework will be available should a child wish to complete the work on paper rather than online. Please encourage your child to complete their homework to the best of their ability and to return it on time.

Library

The class will have the opportunity to visit the main school Library on Tuesdays and Fridays. If your child would like their book changed, please ensure it is in their book bag on one of these days. There may be occasions that the library is otherwise in use but we will endeavour to offer changes as soon as possible if this is the case.

PE Kits

We will have PE on Mondays and Thursdays. However, **PE kits** should be in school every day, and should include the Camp School P.E. top or a white t-shirt, black shorts/tracksuit trousers, and a pair of plimsolls/trainers to change into. During the school day the class will complete the daily mile (for year 1, one lap) on the school's running track.

Clothing and other items

The children be doing some of their learning outside daily in all but severe weather. It is therefore important they all come with a waterproof, warm coat daily (hats, gloves, etc.) and sun hats for hot days. Wellies are needed as the weather gets wetter; we have a fair amount of muddy puddles to enjoy on the main playground. These items, as well as PE kits and all uniform items worn to school, **should all have your child's name clearly on the label**. If your child is likely to have occasional toilet accidents please do let us know and provide a spare pair of pants/socks/trousers. We suggest that children with long hair wear it tied back for school so that it doesn't get in their way during learning activities.

Please make sure that your child always has a water bottle in school filled with water each day. We help children top these up when needed. If your child wants to have toast, please register and pay for it on the school gateway. Milk is ordered ahead of the term starting. The school office is happy to help answer questions if needed. Please note that at snack time each morning the children are also offered a piece of fruit which is provided by the fruit for schools initiative.

Please note that as part of our covid risk assessment we will be continuing to keep the classroom well ventilated which means it could get a bit chilly, so as the weather gets colder you might want to give your child an extra layer to wear (e.g. a vest/long sleeved top under their top). We also request that toys and other precious items stay at home.

Communication

The best time to catch us for a quick conversation is at the end of the day, but of course we know that sometimes you will need to pass on an urgent message in the morning. Should you have any concerns you wish to discuss in more detail we can schedule a time to talk so that we have the time needed to address these properly. Please do come to us (or send an email via the office) with any concerns or questions. We look forward to a fabulous year ahead with this lovely class.

Best wishes,

The Year 1 team