

# Year 1

Newsletter to parents

Autumn Term 2016

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 1! We hope you had a lovely summer break and are looking forward to this very busy and exciting first term.

In Year 1 we are endeavouring to support the children's transition by continuing to follow many of the Early Years practises. This means that your child will continue to have "Sparkle time" (child-initiated time) alongside adult directed tasks. During this time children will have the chance to free flow amongst the year 1 classrooms and shared areas to experience a wider range of opportunities. In Squirrel class they will be supported by Miss Stott, Miss Hayward and Mrs Coomes and in Hedgehog class they will be supported by Mrs Mather and Mrs Patten (Thursday) and Mrs Aylott.



Our topic for the first half term is called "Are we there yet?" and is based on journeys and travel. The children will be learning about different forms of transport and different places in the UK

they could travel to. We will also be talking about the "journey" you make as you come in to Year 1, new rules, expectations and routines.

After half term our topic will be "Travelling" where we will be travelling back in time as well as around the world. We will also have a focus on animals around the globe starting at the South Pole and reaching the final destination of the North Pole in time for Christmas. You will be delighted to hear that we will also be working hard on our singing and dancing ability in preparation for the Christmas Production.



This year we are very excited that the children will be continuing their outdoor learning in Forest school once a fortnight. This will be taken by Mr Clarke, our forest school specialist and assisted by our sports apprentices and Teaching assistants. Hedgehogs class will start forest school on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> and Squirrels class the following Monday 19<sup>th</sup> and then alternate weeks from then on.



The children will need to come to school in their school uniform and bring their forest school clothes in a named plastic bag. The children will need a long sleeved top, long trousers, warm sweatshirt, wellingtons and warm socks. In addition a waterproof coat will be needed as the weather deteriorates, if you have waterproof trousers these would also be very helpful.

## ENGLISH

Our main focus is for children to be writing in full sentences, using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. At this time in the year children will be praised for any logical phonetic spellings appropriate to their stage of learning, however "High Frequency Words" (as seen in your school handbook and your child's High Frequency word book) will be corrected as these can often not be spelt phonetically and the curriculum expectations are that children will learn to read and spell these words by heart.

## MATHS

We will be focusing on number recognition and formation to 100 as well as basic addition and subtraction. We will also be covering both 2D and 3D shapes alongside learning about capacity and weight.



This term a lot of effort will be concentrated on correct letter formation and presentation skills. Children will carry out fine motor (finger strong) activities each morning alongside daily handwriting sessions. Please encourage your child to form their letters correctly as it is very easy to get into bad habits! We would encourage you to look carefully at the cursive style the school models. This is available in your school handbook and a workshop will be held on 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016.

## P.E. SESSIONS

Both classes will have PE every week on a Thursday and every other week on a Friday. Children need to have both indoor and outdoor kits in school at all times. PE kits will be sent home for washing at the end of every half term. Children will need suitable outdoor clothing – sweatshirt/zip-up top, jogging bottoms and trainers. For indoor PE, children will need white t-shirts and blue shorts.

## READING AND PHONICS

Firstly, thank you in advance for your continued support: regularly reading to and with your child at home is so vital. Please continue to further support your children with their phonics at home, as this really helps to develop and cement the learning achieved in the classroom.

The children will take part in a daily reading carousel where they may be heard by an adult, they may read together in a group or they may complete reading based activities. Your child will read with an adult at least twice a week and will have their books changed once a week. It is vital that your child brings in their reading diary every day. A letter will be sent home detailing on which day your child will change their books and it is paramount that they bring both reading scheme books and their library book on that day.



For the first half term all phonic sessions will be based in your child's class as we assess the children and given them a solid grounding in Phase 4 phonics. We will start the second half of the autumn Term with the children streamed into groups that will best support their individual learning.

We are delighted to be continuing the hugely successful 'Mystery Reader' initiative. We will be asking parents/ carers/ family friends/older siblings/grandparents to sign up on for a Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons. Please speak to your class teacher discretely as we want to make sure this remains a secret for the children.

## BOOKBAGS

**Every day** children must bring in a named book bag; these are available from the school office. Rucksacks, other bags and attached key rings or toys are not appropriate as they will not fit into their drawers. Thank you for your understanding. Although it is nice to bring your own possessions into school, we encourage children not to bring in toys or other items to be used at break-time as they can easily be broken or lost and can lead to upset.

## DRINKS AND SNACKS

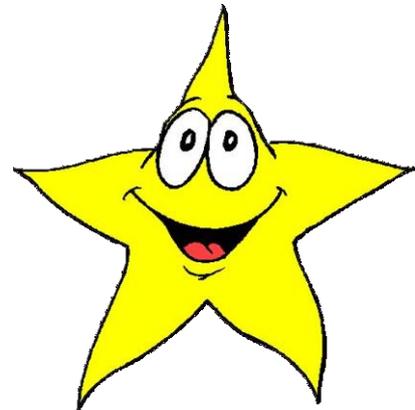
We would appreciate it if your child could bring a named refillable water bottle to school. These are kept in a central place and are accessible throughout the day. As in Reception, children will continue to receive their daily piece of fruit.

## MORNINGS AND HOME TIME

Please may we remind you that in order to encourage the children's independence we ask that you say goodbye to your child outside and send them into the classroom on their own. This helps to promote their independence and means that children who have not been dropped off by their parents do not get upset. The class teacher will always be at the door for any concerns for the day ahead however if you wish to talk in more detail an after school appointment would need to be arranged. It is important that you inform us if somebody else will be collecting your child or they will be attending Funzone this can be done verbally on the door but is more convenient in writing. For the safety of your children we are unable to let them go with somebody else if we have not been informed. If there is a last minute emergency change to collection – please contact the school office.

## CELEBRATIONS

This year the whole school will be celebrating the learner of the week and the star of the week. This will be recorded on the classroom window and school newsletter. If your child has received a medal, certificate or trophy outside of school we would be delighted to share this in our Key Stage assembly on Friday. In bookbags this week you will also have "WOW" notelets if your child has achieved a personal milestone then please write this on the notelets and send in with your child to share and put on a display.



## EDGAR AND BERNARD

Both classes have a school mascot which travels home with a child each weekend. The children will all have a chance over the course of the year. Please ensure that the bear is returned by Monday to ensure he can enjoy the week's learning.

Thank you for your support. We are excited to work together with you over the coming year to offer your child the very best learning experiences.

Miss Stott and Mrs Mather