



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Year 1! We are very impressed with our new Moles, Hedgehogs and Otters who have been settling well into the new routines and have been eager to tackle new challenges. We will be working hard to provide the children with a smooth transition between Reception and Year 1. As part of our transition, we structure the day by running a carousel of activities which the children complete during the week.

English

Throughout the term, we will be reading a variety of fiction, poetry and non-fiction texts. This term we shall be immersing ourselves in a range of stories with predictable and patterned language to enhance the children's writing, as well as exploring stories with familiar settings. The author we will be focusing on is Julia Donaldson and we will be starting with 'The Snail and the Whale'. We shall be exploring sequencing, retelling and describing, as well as completing drama work. We will also be looking at non-fiction texts related to our geography/history topic. The children will practise forming their letters correctly using the Sheen Mount script, whilst becoming more comfortable with their pencil grip.

Phonics:

The children will revisit and consolidate their knowledge of phonics by practising their sounds and further developing their knowledge of phonics, high-frequency words and recognising tricky/exception words. From this, the children will be encouraged to read and write responding to a variety of stimuli.

Maths

Our maths work will include practical sessions using games, rhymes and concrete objects to develop mental arithmetic skills and mathematical understanding. This term we will be revisiting and focusing on all aspects of numbers to 20, including reading, writing and ordering and then calculating addition and subtraction sentences and problems, using the appropriate symbols. We will also be exploring how to show our understanding of different numbers using different objects in a variety of practical ways. The children develop their knowledge of number bonds within 20 and counting in 2s, 5s and 10s. We will also be investigating measures, focusing this term on shape and space using the correct vocabulary.

Science

Animals including Humans-Ourselves/The Human Body: The children will begin to study the topic of the human body. We will be teaching the children about different parts of the human body and the five senses.
Scientific Enquiry skills: The children will develop their scientific enquiry skills by making and recording observations and measurements using their senses. They will also be taking part in an ongoing activity observing changes across the four seasons, observing changes in the weather and day length in the Autumn Term. For the second half of the term, the children will develop their scientific enquiry skills through different types of fascinating experiments.

Computing

We are currently looking at ways to clean the computer suite in between classes but in the meantime, please could you support children at home to use programs like Busy Things, BBC Dance Mat Typing and the Google Classroom in order to develop their computer skills.

Humanities

Geography - Our World: The children will use maps, globes and books to begin to study the world, looking at some continents, oceans and places of interest. They learn about different places such as Australia, Antarctica, as well as other Non-European places through cross-curricular learning.

History- Explorers: The children will learn about different explorers from different time periods exploring their achievements in specific continents, for example Ibn Battuta in Africa. They make links between what they learn about the world in geography and how we found out about those places in the first place. They also briefly learn about Tim Berners-Lee and focus on what life and communication was like before the invention of the Internet, looking at telephones and letter writing.

PE and Games

We have two PE sessions each week and at the moment, both are outdoors. The focus is on developing balance, strength, flexibility and coordination as well as object control by learning throwing and catching skills.

The children have PE on Monday and Tuesday. The children do not need to keep a kit at school. They should come in on their PE days in their PE kit. PE kit consists of the following:

- white PE shorts, colour team t-shirt
- sensible trainers
- Children can also wear a Sheen Mount hoodie and dark tracksuit bottoms in colder weather

Art and Design Technology

In Design Technology the children are investigating pop-up books, levers and hinged objects before designing and making their own moving picture.

In Art, we are exploring how to make mix colours and make different colour palates. The children will be using this technique to make an African sunset and a polar ice cap. We are also investigating different types of sculptures.

RE and PSHE

In our RE sessions we will be exploring Christianity, creation stories and the importance of having rules. Leading up to Christmas, we shall explore the Christian Nativity story as well as how Christmas is celebrated around the world.

In PSHE, the children will develop an understanding of the values of 'cooperation and love' through different themes, discussions and activities. We will also be exploring the book 'Here we are' by Oliver Jeffers in order to support children's transition back to school.

Routines:

As per previous communication, we will be operating a one-way system for pick up and drop off. The children will have a staggered start and end to their day, starting at 8:30 and finishing at 3:00.

In Year 1, the children will be learning about the new routines and we are aiming to start the day with a short morning challenge before completing a carousel of different activities, which focus on one of the following areas: science, literacy, art, handwriting, fine motor development, humanities or maths. They will then have a phonics lesson before play time. The children will then have a maths lesson and quiet reading before lunchtime. After lunchtime, the children will complete topic lessons such as art, humanities, RE and PSHE. They will also have some afternoons where they are able to explore, investigate and learn through play through continuous provision.

Behaviour and Sanctions:

In KS1, children follow the Golden Rules. In each classroom there is a display of these rules with a sunshine and 2 clouds. All children start with their name on the sunshine and for each day they keep their name on the sunshine, they earn 5 minutes of Golden Time. Golden Time will be on Friday afternoon in children's own classes and is a way of thanking children for their hard work and behaviour. If children are on the first cloud, they have a chance to correct their choices and move back to the sun. If children are on the second cloud, they will miss 5 minutes of their Golden Time and use this time to reflect on their behaviour with the KS1 Leader, Miss Bakrania. Please see the Behaviour Policy on the school website for more information.

Each class also has their own reward systems such as dojos, fish (for Otters) or class stickers. We also use whole class gems in the jar and other positive reinforcement strategies for all the children.

Bringing items to school:

The children should continue to bring their reading bag into school and this will be kept in their own trays. Please make sure their yellow reading record is also inside the book bag. Named water bottles will be kept at school and be sent home on Friday. We ask that children do not bring in any additional items, such as pokemon card or soft toys. Children do not need to bring in their own fruit snacks as our free school fruit scheme will be providing fruit.

Communication:

We want to keep communication open as much as possible. Please continue to use the school office email and phone number to communicate with class teachers. We have new Google Classrooms set up and we will be using this for homework and spellings, which will start after half term. Please also use the school

website and the Year 1 webpage to access other key documents such as curriculum maps, information about how to help with phonics and reading at home, handwriting information and a maths strategies booklet. We will also update this website with information about the children's learning and try to share photos of the work we are doing.

How to help at home

Reading:

We will be issuing yellow reading records with children's stage books and have put in place systems to ensure this is done in safe way, according to the guidelines. The children will be issued with 2 stage books at the start of the week and they should be returned the following Monday where these books will be put into a box for 72 hours before being returned to the shared area. The yellow reading records will stay in children's book bags which are kept inside their individual trays. Please ensure that children bring in their reading record **every day** so that comments can be recorded by teachers throughout the week. At school, we will hear your child read through shared, guided and individual reading sessions and when we have read with your child, we will write a comment in children's record. We will read with your children regularly and aim to provide 3 written comments per half term. We will start issuing books from Monday 21st September. Please note that we are still completing our initial reading assessment to determine the band book children will be given.

These records can be used for commenting when you have read with your child. The comment will help us get feedback with regards to children's reading. This can include what they read, what they did well and what the needed support with. It is very important **that you hear your child read and that you read to your child as much as possible-a little bit everyday where possible**. To develop their comprehension skills please discuss the book with them, focusing on the meaning of new words and getting them to re-tell the main events. To develop higher order reading skills, talk about the feelings of the characters, and their motivations, and what they can infer from the text.

Please do not worry about which stage book your child is on; we are keen for children to develop a passion for reading, as well as develop key reading skills, rather than move through the stages. **Please ensure your child has their books with them on Monday in order for new books to be issued**. The children can also use the Oxford Owls website to read more books. You will need to use the MY CLASS LOG IN and use the username: y1sheen and password: read123.

Google Classroom:

We will be using Google Classroom for weekly spellings and homework but these will start after half term. There are also other useful resources such as the Oxford Owls reading website for **all** children to access.

There will also be work posted clearly under the heading 'Work/Provision for children self-isolating' that should **only be completed by children who are at home**. The work will mean children who are self-isolating do not miss out on key learning. Each week we will post work with a date and post 2 maths, 2 English/phonics and 1 other piece of learning. **Please do not complete this work if your child is at school-it is only for those missing out on school for self-isolating reasons**. Of course if your children is unwell, we do not expect them to complete the work because it is more important for them to rest and recover.

Maths

Please make maths real for the children by encouraging them to use money at the shops and help you measure when cooking/baking. Regularly practise the number bonds up to 10, 20 and 100 together. Most importantly show your child how you use maths in your daily life. Please also see the maths strategies booklet on both the Google Classroom and the Year 1 part of the school website.

Handwriting:

Please see the Google Classroom and the Year 1 part of the school website for some useful information about letter formation and resources to use as home to support children.

Homework

On Google Classroom, one piece of work set on Thursday and it should be turned in/uploaded by the following Tuesday. This will either be an English, maths or topic based piece of work and will, at times, be a practical activity. Homework with start after half term.

Spellings:

The children will also be given a list of spellings to learn over the week which is linked to the sounds and spellings patterns we will be learning about in class. We will be setting this as a weekly spelling assignment on the Google Classroom. Spellings will be set on Monday and the children should practise these as much as possible, There will be a short, informal spelling test in the classroom on the following Monday, the focus of which will help to reinforce phonics and spelling strategies. We do not feedback spelling test results. Spellings will start after half term.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead and thank you in advance for your support.
Kind regards,

Otters: Mrs Wigmore, Mrs Evers, Miss Harper, Mrs Donnelly, Mrs Marano
Hedgehogs: Mrs Bojkovic, Mrs Kennedy, Mrs Day, Ms Hazel, Mr Woznicki, Mrs Hayes
Moles: Miss Mortimer, Mrs Nesbitt, Mrs House, Ms Hazel, Miss Pitulec, Mrs Sayyed

