



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, this term we structure the day by running a carousel of activities that the children complete during the week.

English

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. The children will practise forming their letters correctly using the Sheen Mount script, whilst becoming more comfortable with their pencil grip.

Phonics/Reading

The children will revisit and consolidate their knowledge of phonics by practising their sounds and blending of sounds to make words and revise exception words. The children will have a new reading book sent home on Tuesday and should be brought back on the following Monday.

Maths

Our maths work will include practical sessions using games, rhymes and concrete objects to develop children's mental arithmetic skills and mathematical understanding. This term we will be focusing on all aspects of place value including, 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 investigating shape this term.

Science

This first half term we look at the human body and the five senses. The children will begin to learn to how to make and record observations using their senses. The second half term is about materials and their properties, whilst developing their enquiry skills through different experiments.

Humanities

Geography – The children learn about the seven continents of the world and the five oceans through songs, exploration of books and key features of continents, for example the Great Wall of China.

History- Explorers: In the second half term children will learn about different explorers, exploring their achievements in specific continents.

PE and Games

We have two PE sessions each week. **The children have PE on Tuesday and Wednesday. 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:

- black PE shorts
- colour team t-shirt or green Sheen Mount t-shirt
- sensible sports trainers
- in winter pupils may wear dark coloured tracksuit bottoms (during the colder weather) and a Sheen Mount (or other dark coloured) hoodie

This term children will develop a range of skills to support their coordination, movement, balance, agility and team work skills. They will also be taught about the benefits of physical activity and how it supports both our minds and bodies.

Art, Design Technology and Music

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

In art, we focusing on our painting and collage skills. We are learning about paintbrush strokes, and how to mix primary colours. We are learning what collage is and how to glue using different materials and textures.

In music, the children will combine skills, knowledge and understanding in a practical way using '*Rondo alla Turca*' by Mozart as a starting point. They will continue to develop performance and singing skills, as well as their listening skills by exploring a diverse range of music and songs.

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 'Unity' and 'Peace' through different themes, discussions and activities. The children will also continue to learn about mental well-being, the Zones of Regulation and explore different tools and strategies that support the development of their emotional understanding and skills.

Languages

The children will start their Italian lessons soon with a language specialist and will learn basic greetings, colours and numbers.

Routines

As per previous communication, children start their day at 8:45 and end it at 3:20. 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 and continuous provision.

Behaviour and Systems

In KS1, children follow the Golden Rules. Everyday there is a new 'Star of the Day' which is awarded to a child who has followed the Golden Rules the previous day. Their reward is choosing two friends to join them at the front of the line. Golden Time will be on Friday across the KS1 classes and is a way of thanking children for their hard work and behaviour. If there is consistent inappropriate behaviour they will miss some golden time and use this as a chance to reflect on their behaviour with the KS1 Leader, Miss Bolton.

Each class also has their own reward systems such as earning fish, dojos or leaves. We also use whole class gems in the jar and other positive reinforcement strategies. Every week, during KS1 Assembly, we also give out a kindness certificate.

Bringing items to school:

The children should continue to bring their book bag into school and this will be kept in their trays. Please make sure their yellow reading record is also inside the book bag and send this in every day. Named water bottles remain at school during the week, and they returned home on Fridays. We have fruit for snack-time which is provided by the school.

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 and where possible, we will be happy to speak to you at pick up and drop off. For any messages about play dates or after school clubs, please use the class message book located near the entry door. We will also work with the Parent Reps to communicate messages and share information.

How to help at home

Reading

Please read with your child as often as possible but we ask that at least 3 times per week. They will receive one reading book per week. These should be returned to school on Mondays and new books will be issued on Tuesdays. Please keep the reading record in their book bags every day so we can write in it when we have read with them.

Google Classroom:

We will be using Google Classroom for weekly spellings and homework. For Year 1 this starts in Autumn 2. Please also use this for information and resources linked to different areas of learning like handwriting. It is especially useful for phonics and there are resources to download and use with children to help them develop and consolidate their phonic knowledge at home.

Homework

On Google Classroom, one piece of work will be set on Thursday and it should be turned in/uploaded by the following Tuesday. This will be either an English, maths or topic based piece of work and will, at times, be a practical activity. Homework 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, Hedgehogs: Miss Lister, Moles: Miss Lawton
TAs: Mrs Evers, Mrs Pifer, Miss Mohseni, Miss Mahesha, Mr Marek, Mrs Day, Miss Martens, Mrs Burlow

Key dates:

21st September meet the teacher

Friday 20th October – End of half term