

Dear parents, carers and children,

We wish you the warmest welcome back! We are very much looking forward to our year ahead together. I am so proud of how fantastically the children have returned to school. They have settled into their new classroom and routines extremely well. ☺

What will happen during the first few weeks?

As with the first weeks in Reception class, we feel that it is important to establish as many aspects of the daily routine as soon as possible.

We will familiarise the children with their new environment – both harnessing nerves and embracing excitement.

Initially, the main focus in the classroom will be ensuring that all children feel welcome, happy and safe on their return to school and in their new learning environment. To support this, there will be a huge focus on the children's personal, social and emotional development, with lots of opportunities for play, creativity, and independent exploration. We will focus a lot on how we communicate effectively and appropriately with others, and how to play nicely, e.g. 'turn taking and sharing'.

Year 1 will build on the successful principles and approaches encapsulated in Reception but will challenge at a Year 1 National Curriculum Level. Children will learn through adult lead, adult initiated and child initiated challenges. Free play is called 'challenge time' where children have set tasks to complete through independent exploration.

Outlined below is the intended curriculum coverage for the rest of the first half term, however as I will be assessing the children throughout, and working out what the children's strengths and weaknesses are, this is subject to change, and will be adapted where necessary to suit the needs of the children.

Staffing

Mrs Wibberley will be our class teaching assistant, and will support our learning.

Mrs Meadham will also be covering Class 1 on a Wednesday whilst I am on my PPA and ECT.

Phonics – Read, Write, Inc

As stated in the RWI letter previously sent out, the children have been assessed and grouped according to their phonics knowledge and skills. Small group RWI sessions will go ahead every day for 45 mins (please see the RWI letter for additional information). RWI phonics will be streamed throughout the whole of Key Stage 1. As a school we feel that it is vital for the children to develop and secure their phonics knowledge and understanding, which will inevitably lead to competence and confidence with their basic reading and writing skills. We believe that our new streamed approach will help to target and accelerate the children's progress.

English



As part of our whole school approach to promote reading and support the children's love of reading, in Class 1 we will be following a programme called 'Talk through stories' derived by the creator of RWI Ruth Miskin. The aim of this will be to extend and deepen children's vocabulary so that they can understand the books they will one day be able to read for themselves. We will also use these books to create a range of speaking and listening, and writing opportunities also.

When writing we will focus on being able to:

- Sit correctly at a table, holding a pencil comfortably and correctly.
- Begin to use capital letters and demarcate sentences
- Begin to use finger spaces
- Form lower case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the correct place

Class 1 Newsletter

Autumn 1 2021

Reading Books and Records

As previously stated in the RWI letter, the children will receive a RWI book to take home to read every Wednesday (please see the RWI letter for more information on this). As always you will be provided with a separate reading record book. Please use this book to record any independent, shared, or even stories read by yourselves, and we will endeavour to check these books as regularly as possible. Regarding book bags and reading records, please ensure reading books and bags are in school on a Monday, so we can change the RWI books ready to be given out on Wednesday of that week (book bags can still continue to be brought in every other day also, just in case the children have letters, other items to bring home). We encourage you to read a wide selection of books at home with your children and Class 1's suggested book list will be posted on Google Classroom. Check it out – there are some fantastic stories! ☺

Our learning challenge question this half term is **'What is so super about me?'**

PSHE/SCIENCE

Within this unit children will cover the following objectives:

- I know that I belong to a community.
- I can help to make the class a safe and fair place.
- I can help to make my class a good place to learn.
- I can sometimes tell if other people are feeling sad or scared and I know how to make people feel better.
- I know some more ways to calm myself down when I feel scared or upset.
- I enjoy and am fascinated with learning about myself and others and the world around me
- Know the name of parts of the human body that can be seen

Mathematics

In mathematics this half term, as well as spending time assessing the children's knowledge and understanding, we will focus on the following:

Number - Place Value/Addition & Subtraction:

- Count, read and write numbers to 10 in both words and numerals
- Represent numbers to 10 using objects and pictorial representations
- Compare numbers to 10 using the correct language
- Read, write and interpret mathematical statements involving addition (+), subtraction (-) and equals (=) signs
- Recall and use number bonds and related subtraction facts up to 10
- Add and subtract one-digit and two-digit numbers to 10, including zero

- Solve one-step problems involving addition and subtraction using concrete objects and pictorial representations

Computing

Our computing work will focus on **'Using technology'**. Throughout the unit children will be taught to use technology purposefully to create, organise, store, manipulate and retrieve digital

Religious Education

In Religious Education, we will be focussing on the Harvest festival. The children will learn about what Harvest is and why Christians celebrate it.

PSHE

This half term the children will be continuing to follow the 'Jigsaw Scheme' for their PSHE sessions, however PSHE will be woven into all aspects of learning this term as part of our transitional topic theme.

The unit the children will study this half term is:

Being Me in My World

- Feel special and safe in my classroom
- Know that I belong to my class
- Understand the rights and responsibilities of being a member of my class
- Recognise the choices I make and understand the consequences

Art

This half term the focus of our Art will be a link to our topic. The children will produce self-portraits, superhero masks, emblems, and other crafts.

Music

Music will be taught following the Charanga music scheme we have in school. Our first title is 'Hey You!' This will incorporate listening and appreciating, singing, creating own music and playing an instrument.

Physical Education

This half term the children will be taught **'Multi-skills'**. Lessons will take place on a Monday and Wednesday. Please ensure that your child comes to school wearing an appropriate outdoor kit on these days, as where ever possible PE will be taught outside (weather dependent). Monday's session will be taught by an external agency 'Sports Development' and by Mrs Meadham on a Wednesday this half term.

Thank you for your continued support and co-operation. Please, feel free to contact me, via the office, if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind regards,

Class 1 Newsletter

Autumn 1 2021

Miss Phillips