

Year 1 Newsletter – Autumn Term 1



Dear Parents/Carers:

Firstly, we would like to wish you a very warm welcome to year one. We hope that you all had an enjoyable and restful summer break. We are all looking forward to the year ahead! The year one team is comprised of Chloe, Lee and Sam in Maple Class, and Mr Stein, Tam and Ellie in Beech Class. Billy-Jo will be working across the year group supporting whole class teaching and working with small groups.

The following is an overview of what your child will be taught in the first half of the Autumn term, as well as general timetabling information.

In **English**, we will begin by reading 'Lost in the Toy Museum' which relates to our topic of Toys. We will be reading this book as a whole class and using words and sentences to describe characters and settings in the story. We will also be focusing on key grammar and punctuation skills. Children will keep practising using their capital letters, finger spaces and full stops and begin to include adjectives and conjunctions in their sentences. A big focus this year will continue to be on **reading**. Children will carry on following the Jolly Phonics programme, this teaches children how to hear the sounds that letters make and spell phonetically. We also teach 'tricky' words, which children learn by sight. Please try to encourage your child to read as much and as widely as possible and, wherever possible, please take the time to read with your child.

Our **Maths** focus this half-term will be on number and place value. We will consolidate our counting skills, learn to identify which number is greater, order numbers, count forwards and backwards, find one more and one less and become confident using the number line to solve addition problems.

Our **History** topic is 'Toys'. We will be learning all about how toys have changed over time. Children will sort old from new toys, looking at the materials used and be able to explain how toys have developed since the Victorian times.

In **Science**, our topic will be 'Humans'. We will be learning to label the different parts of our bodies and thinking about what they are used for. We will be collecting data about our shoe sizes to make a graph and exploring our five senses and how we use them.

In **Music**, we will be following a scheme know as 'Music Express', where children will have the chance to engage in lots of different practical activities.



Finally, our “big question” in **Religious Education** this term is: ‘Why is it good to listen to and remember the stories Jesus told?’

In this unit, children will learn about each of the Parables and a special lesson to be learnt from each of these stories.

Key information:

The school gates open at 8.45 and the school day officially begins at 8.55. In order for our learning to begin at 9 o'clock and to have a calm start to the day please ensure you have left the classroom by then. Due to COVID restrictions, parents will no longer be allowed to enter the classroom and we would be grateful if you could be as swift as possible at pick up and drop off. Please ensure all items of clothing are labelled. Children may bring their own water bottle to school, which is also to be labelled. We kindly ask that children avoid bringing bags to school.

Our class PE day will be Friday for both classes. Children can come to school wearing their PE kit and remain in their kit all day. Our PE kit comprises of a white T-shirt or polo shirt, navy shorts or tracksuit bottoms and trainers or plimsolls.

Homework will be given out in the first week of the half term. This year homework will consist of suggested activities for each week. You do not need to bring in any evidence of this, though we would love to share any great examples that you complete. There will be a project homework set. If you wish for your child to complete any additional homework, you can opt in for optional homework by returning the slip on the letter sent home. This will be available to access via Microsoft Teams.

Children will have a weekly **spelling test on Monday**. Please practise your child’s spellings each week. Children will have their **reading books** changed weekly. We will be sending a reading book home every Monday and expect books to be returned on a Friday. This gives us time to take necessary precautions and allow time for cleaning and sanitisation of books. In addition to this, children all have access to reading books online via ‘Bug Club’. Bug club login details will be the same as last year. We will be sending home login details to you shortly.

Chloe and Mr Stein have their planning time on Friday morning. Billy-Jo will cover the classes during this time.

We are really looking forward to teaching year one and we think that we will have a great year together! If there is anything that you wish to talk to us about, please do let us know.

Best wishes,

The Year One team

