

## Welcome to Year 1

We wish your child every success for the coming year and trust that they are settling well into Year 1. We aim to make the transition between Early Years and Key Stage 1 as smooth as possible.

### The Year 1 teaching team

Pear class teacher: Mrs Cook

Apple class teacher: Miss Dewdney/ Mrs Marshall

Cherry class teacher: Mrs Whelan / Mrs Martin

Teaching assistants: Miss Davies, Mrs Epps and Miss Bates

### Topic Work

Every term we put our skills planning on the school website so that you can see our areas of focus. We plan suitable activities around a theme or 'topic'.

During the Autumn Term our topic will be **'Out and About with the Jolly Postman'**

We start by introducing children to all the new routines and expectations in Year One. We focus on our learning around the 'The Jolly Postman' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. The Jolly Postman encounters a variety of fairy tale characters on his journeys. We study a variety of Fairy Tales, incorporating them into our writing and number work. During the term the children will look at the work of artist Paul Klee and local historical figure, William Allen. We will also learn lots of geographical vocabulary and some basic mapping skills.

During the Spring Term our topic will be **'To Infinity and Beyond'**

Our focus will be Space and the children will find out about Neil Armstrong as well as training to become 'astronauts'. In addition to learning lots of facts about Space, we will also write stories about aliens.

During the Summer Term our topic will be **'Woodland Wonders'**

This topic will enable us to make the most of our woodland areas and learn about trees and flowering plants. We are planning to visit the British Wildlife Centre and learn lots about native animals.

### Mathematics

Our daily mathematics session places an emphasis on mental and oral skills, encouraging accuracy and flexibility when manipulating numbers. This work will build on aspects of number such as place value, simple number sequences and patterns, use of +, -, x and ÷. We will be encouraging the children to develop their own range of mental strategies to assist them in a variety of calculations and problem solving experiences.

### English

Children participate in a phonics session daily following Read Write Inc. We are currently teaching phonics within our classes and will inform you on our weekly homework sheet which sounds your child has been focussing on in class. When we are able to mix our classes for RWI, a letter will be sent home letting you know which sounds your child is working on. Please refer to this link for help with pronouncing the sounds correctly. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYx1CyDMZSc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYx1CyDMZSc). There is a sheet included at the back of your reading diary to help you to know the sounds in set 2 and set 3.

Our cross-curricular approach provides a wide variety of opportunities for development in literacy. The discrete language skills include:

- Vocabulary extension
- Spelling strategies
- Phonological awareness
- Word recognition
- Grammatical awareness in sentence work
- Sentence construction and punctuation

To support the learning that is occurring in school we will send home words and spellings for children to learn to read and write as the year progresses.

### **Handwriting**

During Year One, we will be introducing the children to a cursive script; we will encourage them to use lead-ins and lead-outs. We will also be working on writing the letters in the correct position on the line and making their letters consistent in size.

### **Books**

We will listen to your child read each week. Sometimes this will be in a group situation focusing on specific reading skills whilst at other times reading one to one with an adult. A range of books will be sent home for them to share with you. Reading is a vital part of your child's development and your support is very much appreciated. It would be lovely if you could read for at least ten minutes each night. We encourage the children to change their books independently and will provide an opportunity for them to do so on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

### **PE**

Year 1 has PE slots every day of the week so please, when things return to normal, ensure your child has a **fully named** PE kit in school. Even if the weather becomes cold, we still like to take the children outside for PE so it may be useful if they have a track suit for these occasions.

### **Fruit and Water**

All children will have the opportunity to eat fresh fruit during the morning. Children should bring in a named water bottle from home so that they can drink throughout the day.

### **Uniform**

Please ensure **all** uniform, including coats, are clearly and permanently named.

**And finally...** we hope you have found this information useful and please message us if you have any questions or concerns either by email through the school office or via the home/school diary. We will check the diaries weekly but if you have an urgent message in there please get your child to walk in with their diary in their hand and ask them to tell the teacher there is a message in there. Thank you for all your support and we look forward to having a year of fun learning with your child.