

Dear Parents/ Carers,

9<sup>th</sup> September, 2016

### **Year 1 Autumn Term Topics 2016**

Welcome back to the new school year. The children are settling in well into their new class and for your information, listed below are the topics we will be studying this half term. If you have any particular interest or feel you can help in school in any way, we would be very happy to hear from you.

I have included in your child's book bag:

i) A coloured, picture / phoneme mat to assist your child's recognition of letter sounds within words, to aid reading at home. On the reverse is a cursive, alphabet letter sheet with directional arrows, to assist with written letter formation.

ii) A 100 square number grid, with a sheet with the numbers and words from 0 to 20 on the reverse, to aid any Maths homework.

If any of these are lost or damaged, please let me know and replacements can be supplied.

### **Phonics**

All year 1 children will have a daily thirty minute phonic session each morning. During these sessions we will consolidate Phase 3 diagraphs using blending and segmenting activities, practising Phase 4 spellings, then moving onto Phase 5. Many activities will involve the interactive Phonics Bug or from the Letters and Sounds scheme. Each week, your child will bring home a list of spellings to practise using the 'look, copy and write' method, where each column can be folded along the vertical, dotted line to hide the words, then your child can attempt to spell each word in turn from memory, without directly copying. It would also be helpful if you could encourage your child to identify words in their books which contain the sounds on the picture / phoneme mat. There are lots of games on the Letters and Sounds website which you could play with your child at home. Simply Google 'Letters and Sounds' and select Phase Three or Phase Four games from the side menu, there are lots to choose from! (E.g. Picnic on Pluto, Dragon's Den and Buried treasure).

[www.letters-and-sounds.com](http://www.letters-and-sounds.com)

### **Reading**

Children will receive guided reading sessions in school each week. The reading books children bring home will be changed on Mondays and Thursdays. If possible, please listen to your child read at home as often as you can, it really does make a huge difference to their reading ability,

fluency, story comprehension and their enthusiasm for books in general. When you have heard your child read could you please write a brief comment in their reading diary to let us know, for example, if they segmented and blended phonemes, read an unfamiliar word successfully, struggled with a particular letter sound, or could recall events from the pages read. Oxford Owls is also a good website which can be used at home to develop reading.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/pages/library-page#>

### **Literacy**

This half term we will be looking at a range of picture books relating to 'Stories with familiar settings', where we will be undertaking work on story structure, characters and events, including using role play. We will also be focussing on developing handwriting and presentation through regular handwriting sessions to refine letter formation and orientation. In addition, there will be a guided writing activity each week to develop the consistent use of capital letters, word spacing and full stops. There will also be a 'Big Write' activity each week, where children discuss and then write about a subject independently.

### **Numeracy**

We will be focussing on identifying, writing, ordering and using numbers, through a range of practical activities involving addition and subtraction. We will consolidate and extend our knowledge of number facts, including deriving and recalling pairs of numbers with a total up to 20 and identifying odd and even numbers. In our unit on understanding shape, we will be revising the names and associated vocabulary of 2D and 3D shapes, describing their properties, sorting objects into groups and exploring shapes of different sizes and orientations.

### **Science**

Our science topic this half term will be 'Everyday materials'. We will be studying a range of natural and man-made objects, identifying the materials from which they are made and making comparisons by exploring their physical properties and uses. We will develop working scientifically through a range of practical activities including generating questions and recording of observations and data through diagrams and sentences. We will also be studying 'Seasonal changes', looking at signs of autumn, including the changing colour and de-foliation of deciduous plants, the changes in weather, temperature and animal activity.

### **Information and Communication Technology**

This half term we are using the Primary Computing Framework, where we will be organising, storing, manipulating and retrieving digital content. We will also be exploring operations, programs and applications using the school's ipads to assist cross-curricular learning linked to other subjects. In addition, we will develop our word processing skills, including changing font sizes and colours. For a useful website to assist in the development of word processing skills at home, just click on the link below (then click 'Start'), to access 'BBC Dance Mat'.

<http://www.dancemattypingguide.com/dance-mat-typing-level-1/stage-1/>

### **Religious Education**

This term our theme is 'How should we look after our wonderful world'? We will be looking at stories and similarities between different faiths and how they influence our view of the natural world. This will include using discussion and role-play to explore scenarios relating to how we can help to protect our world?

### **Geography and History**

Our topic this half term is 'Our local area'. We will be looking at how the surrounding area has changed, identifying important buildings, geographical features and land use. We will consider our sense of place in relation to home, school and the wider community, including a school trip to study the recreation facilities at Stafford Park.

We will also be studying the origins and events leading up to Bonfire Night.

### **Art and Design Technology**

In Design and Technology, we will be designing and constructing a playground, linked to our Geography topic and trip to Stafford Park.

*We please ask parents to save any junk modelling materials from home that the children could bring in to use to make their own models of the park e.g. egg boxes, milk bottle lids, yoghurt cartons etc.*

In Art, we will be exploring various paint effects and techniques, including using non-conventional art materials to create a Bonfire night painting.

We will begin to critically evaluate our work by recognising successful elements and identifying particular areas for development.

### **Physical Education**

This term we will focus on gymnastics, where we will be exploring different ways of travelling, displaying fluidity of movement, control,

balance and posture, using various apparatus and we will also develop our understanding of the terminology associated with each movement. We will also focus on ball games to develop our hand-to-eye co-ordination, control and stopping and releasing skills.

Could you kindly ensure that your child's P.E. kit is in school on Wednesday and Friday please?

### **Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)**

Our theme this half term is 'New Beginnings'. We will be exploring what makes a happy school? We will create a class charter based on the children's suggestions; explore how we display our emotions through facial expressions and how we can deal with negative feelings in a positive way. We will also explore units on 'Getting on and falling out, Anti-social behaviour' and 'Say no to bullying'.

### **French**

We will be looking at common phrases, including greetings using names and identifying and reciting numbers, colours and pet animals.

### **Music**

This term our theme is exploring sounds. Children will explore making a variety of sounds with their voices, objects and musical instruments. We will explore how these sounds can be changed and used expressively in response to a stimulus.

Should you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's work, or have any queries please feel free to call in at any time.

I look forward to meeting you at Parents Evening on Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November (4.00 - 6.00pm) or Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 (3.15 - 5.00pm). Appointments will be available at the school office either by e-mail, telephone or in person.

Yours sincerely,

David Waters,  
Year 1 teacher