

Dear Parents/Carers,

Hello and welcome to another school year. The children all seem to be settling in to their new classes and it is great to see so many coming in independently in the mornings. Year One classrooms have been refurbished over the holidays and there is also a new group room that is going to be used for ICT and small group work.

We are looking forward to working with you and your child and would like to tell you what your child will be learning this term as well as give you information about some of our routines.

For the first part of the term the main theme of our work will be 'Ourselves'. This theme will link literacy, science, art, music, ICT, DT and RE. Later on in the term the children will be finding out about Florence Nightingale. This will link with 'Keeping Healthy' and 'Health and Hygiene'. Towards the end of term the theme will be 'Light and Dark'.

In literacy we will be looking at: labels, lists and captions; stories with familiar settings; a poetry unit called 'Using Our Senses' and a story from another culture with predictable and patterned language. During this work we will be practising correct letter formation, leaving spaces between words and using full stops and capital letters in simple sentences.



During our phonics lessons we will be building on the children's prior knowledge, but now focusing on both reading and spelling. The children will need to use their awareness of phonics to decipher new and unfamiliar words. Lists of new tricky and decodable words to learn will be coming home over the year.



In maths the children will be learning:

To count in ones from any small number.

To read, write and count to at least 20.

To recall pairs of numbers which total 10.

To understand the operation of addition and subtraction.

To describe features of 2d and 3d shapes.

To estimate and measure length using non-standard and standard units of measure.

To know the days of the week.

In science the children will be learning about the main parts of the body, similarities and differences between humans, the five senses and differences between animals and humans. During our topic on 'Light and Dark' we will be finding out about day and night and sources of light. This theme also links with RE where we learn how light is symbolic in many religions.

In ICT the children will be taking photographs, using the keyboard to write captions and using a data handling program to find out information.

Throughout this year in art we will be providing opportunities for the children to develop their drawing, painting and cutting skills. This term the children will be using a variety of drawing techniques and learning to create a portrait with all the features in the correct places. We will also do some African art when when studying a story from another culture.



In PHSE there will be lots of opportunities for the class to discuss emotions during the work on 'New Beginnings' and 'Say No to Bullying'. The children will learn about friendship and how to solve conflict. We always discuss health and hygiene and this term in DT we make healthy dips with fruit and vegetables.



Our Music links to our science lessons on sound and hearing. The children will have opportunities to sing, play instruments and compose music to fit with a story.

During our RE lessons we will be learning that the Church and Bible are special to Christian families and how some Christians celebrate baptisms.

In indoor PE lessons we will be moving to African music and create a dance sequence for the story of Handa's Surprise. Our outdoor lessons will be further developing their ball skills.



Routines

Class 3 have PE on Mondays and Wednesdays and Class 4 on Mondays and Fridays. Please make sure your child keeps their PE bag in school all week and ensure all of your child's PE kit is named, including their footwear. Children will need plimsolls or trainers that fit them comfortably.

Children in Year 1 have the opportunity to go to two after school sports clubs this term; Dance Club on a Wednesday and Tennis Club on a Friday.

Reading books are changed twice a week. It is important that your child brings their book bag to school on Tuesdays and Fridays in Class 3 and Mondays and Fridays in Class 4. It is essential that the children continue to practise their reading at home.

There will be a list for 'Show and Tell Days'. The children may bring in something to share with the class related to the current topic. For the first half term it should be something linked to 'Ourselves'. The children do not have to bring in something to show every week!

Homework will be given out on Thursdays. The work is usually linked to literacy or maths. In Year 1 it is expected that the children work with their parents to complete homework. This should be completed and returned to school by the following Tuesday.

If there is anything that you would like to discuss with us, please let us know.

Regards,

Mrs A Lycett, Mrs S Dingwall and Mrs V Goodwin - Class 3

Miss K Walton, Mrs F O'Shea and Mrs J Russell - Class 4