

# Year 1 Spring Term Curriculum Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy new year! I hope you all had an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas holiday.

My priority this term is the well-being of the children, ensuring they are happy and confident. Below is an outline of the curriculum for the Spring Term.



**Phonics:** Children have daily Supported Reading and Phonics sessions. There is a big focus on phonics in Year One culminating in a National Phonics Check assessed in June. The majority of children will be learning digraphs and trigraphs ('special friends') based on our 'Floppy's Phonics' Phonics Scheme. We encourage children to blend sounds together to read using their 'robot arms' or 'Phonics fingers' and then segment ('chop up') words into sounds to help them make phonically plausible attempts at spelling. We often base our spelling test on our Phonics sounds of the week. Please keep practising the 'Helpful words'; decodable and tricky words shown at the front of Home Learning books.

**English:** To help children achieve their objectives we use a range of books including *The Storm Whale* by Benji Davies, *Dragon Post* by Emma Yarlett and *Ruby's Worry* by Tom Percival. We use techniques such as role-play, hot seating and story maps to enhance communication and language. The grammar focus for the first half term will be to carry on using finger spaces, capital letters and full stops as well as learning to use question marks and exclamation marks. We will join words and clauses using 'and' and other conjunctions. In the second half of term we will focus on suffixes (using -ed, -er, -est, -ing as well as plurals -s or -es). Children are encouraged to say their sentence out loud before they write it, then read their work back to check it makes sense.

**Maths:** We follow the 'White Rose' Maths scheme. We will be looking at place value within 50. This includes; counting forwards and backwards, counting in 2s, 5s and 10s, ordering numbers, finding 1 more or 1 less and understanding the value of each digit in a 2-digit number. We will also look at addition and subtraction within 20 and measurement (length, weight, height and volume).

**RE/RSE:** We will be learning about the Local Church (special people), the Eucharist (special meals) and Lent (including Easter). We will also be learning about Islam. In Relationship Education we will be learning about personal relationships and keeping safe (including online).

**Science:** We will be learning the unit 'Everyday Materials' where we will distinguish between an object and the material it is made from. We will compare a variety of materials on the basis of their physical properties. We will also work scientifically by carrying out experiments and testing our predictions. We will use the story of *The Three Little Pigs* to help children answer our big question; 'What is the best material to build a house?'

**History:** Our History unit is based on our family history with the enquiry question; 'What was life like when our Grandparents were children?' We will encourage children to develop their enquiry skills as well as

build a sense of chronology using a timeline in class for this topic as well as composers and artists we learn about throughout the year.

**Geography:** We will start the term with the whole-school 'Geography Week' project, with each year focusing on a continent. Year One will be focusing on Africa. We will then begin our topic 'People and Communities' with the enquiry question; 'Where in the world do these people live?' We will use globes and maps to build our locational and place knowledge of the 7 continents and the UK.

**Computing:** Our 'Purple Mash' units of study this term are; 'Maze Explorers', 'Animated Story Books' and 'Coding'. iPads and the interactive white board are also used in class to support learning.

**Art and DT:** Art this term includes looking at the work of African artist Abdoulaye Konate and making African Kente cloths. We will also create dragon art inspired by Chinese New Year. Children are given many opportunities to paint their own creations especially during Golden Time. In DT we will be developing our technical knowledge by making a moving picture with levers and sliders.

**Spanish:** We will learn numbers to 10, begin to explore the months of the year, sing the *Happy Birthday* song and begin to understand basic praise words.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Home Learning to be handed in.</li> <li>- Please bring in your child's Reading Record every day.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Music with Miss Dyer.</li> <li>- Please bring in your child's Reading Record every day.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Please bring in your child's Reading Record every day.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- New Home Learning given out.</li> <li>- Please hand in and ensure you have signed the Reading Record for all 3 books by Thursday to show they have been read. I will take them in on Thursdays.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Weekly spelling test &amp; new spellings given.</li> <li>- PE with Mr James. Children to come into school in PE kit. Please ensure children have navy joggers/ leggings.</li> <li>- Library day.</li> <li>- Reading books are changed.</li> </ul>

Your continued support at home is invaluable in helping your child to progress this year. Please encourage your child to read a variety of books. Help them to recognise tricky words, increase their sight vocabulary and sound out unfamiliar words. The latter will help prepare them for the Phonics Check in June, which is a big focus in Year One. Most importantly we want children to build a love of learning and enjoy their school experience, especially when they are so young. Please don't hesitate in contacting me if you have any questions regarding the curriculum, the Phonics Check or any other matter.

Best wishes,  
Emma Sharpe (Year One Class Teacher)