



Y1 Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello and welcome to Year 1! It has been lovely to see the children, they have been enjoying exploring the classroom and catching up with their friends. This letter is to let you know details of our learning this term and some Year 1 routines. We will also be holding a short meeting on **Wednesday 25th September 5:00pm-5:30pm** for Year 1 parents to give some overviews of how things work and support the transition into Key Stage 1.

Our topic this term for Year 1 is **“Growing”**. This will include a science focus of learning about basic parts of the human body, senses and finding out about plants and trees, seasons, and change. These first weeks are very much a time of transition from Reception and the children will continue to have a lot of time choosing and following their own interests in the areas of provision, exploring, and learning for themselves. Each day we will also spend time on phonics, maths and English as well as covering a range of subjects linked to our topic across the week.

Our aim is to make all our **learning** as fun and practical as possible. In line with the National Curriculum, **English** in Year 1 includes speaking and listening, phonics, reading, writing, spelling, and handwriting. We will continue to have a daily phonics lesson, often focusing on a new sound each week. In writing sessions, we will be focusing on writing lists, labels and simple sentences connected to our topic, often using books and experiences as a starting point. Our text for this term is ‘The Enormous Turnip’ In **maths** we will be continuing to use the White Rose materials to cover the Year 1 objectives related to number and place value within 10, addition and subtraction within 10 and developing learning on 2D and 3D shapes. In **history** we will be thinking about the children’s own timeline and events within their living memory as they grow up. In **geography** we will be thinking about the weather and developing simple map skills and directional language involving the school grounds including the nature garden and orchard to look for things that are growing. We shall also explore religious and cultural celebrations including Harvest, Diwali, Advent and Christmas and thinking how and why we celebrate special events. Art sessions will focus on colour and drawing and link to our topic work on growing and we will extend this in our computing sessions using drawing and painting software to make pictures. At the end of the term, we will develop our **DT** (design and technology) skills to make a card with a moving part. As part of our **PSHE** curriculum we shall be exploring the themes “Feeling good and being me” (recognising and naming emotions) and ‘Life changes’ (new classes and new friends). In our **music** sessions we will be learning about pulse, rhythm and pitch using the Leeds Charanga music scheme. In the second half of the term, we shall practise and perform a musical nativity. In **PE** we will be keeping fit and active with a mix of dance, gymnastics, and team games.

PE Kit – In Year 1, the children have two sessions of PE a week. Please make sure your child has a PE kit in a named bag to keep in school for the half term PE kit is white or purple t-shirt, plain dark shorts, leggings or jogging bottoms and pumps or trainers. Please send this in as soon as possible if you haven’t done so already.

Water bottles - We encourage children to have regular drinks of water during the day so please could you provide your child with a named water bottle that they take home and bring back each day with fresh water.

How can you help?

Regular **reading** with your child is vital in Year 1. This should be a short session of about ten minutes at least three times per week to enable your child to practise their phonic skills and to recognise Red Words by sight. Please date and sign your child’s reading record so that we know they have read their home reading books and so that we know to give them a new book. We will change reading books once a week in school on the same day that they were changed in reception. We will continue to update the sound books each week, so please make sure your child brings these in on a Monday. Attached to this newsletter is a copy of the sound mats and Red Word mats that are used in school. At the end of each week, I will continue to upload a weekly round-up of our learning on Tapestry. You will receive a separate **homework** leaflet with details about our big homework project this half term and ideas for other activities you can do together at home.

Finally, please do make sure you come and talk to us about your child with any questions or concerns you may have. We want to work with you to keep your child safe, happy, and learning well. Feel free to catch us at the start or the end of the day or ask at the office to make an appointment.

Sarah Coulter, Zaiga Pakalna, Alexa Reay and Miss Vaseem (student teacher for this term).

Staff working in class this term	PE Days	Sound Books	Reading book bag	School Library Day
Sarah Coulter (teacher) Zaiga Pakalna (teaching assistant) Alexa Reay (teaching assistant) -mornings only Miss Vaseem (student teacher) Sara Mitchell -covering Miss Coulter’s PPA on a Monday afternoon	Our PE days are Monday and Wednesday but please have a kit in all the time just in case these change due to weather.	Please make sure these are brought in each Monday , so they can be updated with the sound of the week.	Please ensure reading books are in the book bag everyday as we will listen to children read throughout the week. Home reading books will be changed once a week.	We will visit the school library each week on a Thursday .