



## Year 1 Autumn 1 - Topic Letter

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the start of Year 1, a time of transition for the children from Reception. We would like to reassure you that we are keeping your child's well-being in mind and therefore plan a gradual increase in work time and topic-related play, plus free time for them to choose and pursue a variety of activities that suit their own interests. Year 1 is a very significant and exciting time of change, where children progress at different rates in terms of their learning and social/emotional development. You will probably notice many positive changes in your child as the year progresses.

The mornings will mainly consist of Literacy and Numeracy lessons that are short in structure and involve many hands-on activities for the first half term. The afternoons will be spent covering Topic work within the curriculum, with a focus on practical, creative and play based activities.

	<b>Curriculum covered this half-term</b>	<b>Optional Suggestions for home learning:</b>
English (Literacy)	Our English lessons will be based on our topic which is 'Ourselves'. They will be learning the features of a story book, including characters and setting. There will also be some work on non-fiction texts around the theme of 'Using the Senses'. They will continue to build on their phonic skills with daily sessions. In Year 1, there are planned sessions focusing on correct handwriting skills and letter formation.	Talking about characters, setting and plot of a story.
Maths	The Mathematics lessons begin with a mental warm-up, followed by a main teaching session and group activities. Your child will be practising counting on and back in ones, twos, fives and tens. They will be learning addition and subtraction facts. We will measure length and height in non-standard units, identify, describe and sort 2D and 3D shapes.	Counting with your child in steps of 1,2,5 and 10.  Comparing heights  Do a shape hunt around your home/area.
Science	The children will be learning about our bodies and how to keep healthy. They will be naming and labelling internal and external body parts; their 5 senses; comparing how they are similar and/or different to/from other humans and animals. They will explore how to keep their bodies healthy through exercise, hygiene and healthy eating.	Sharing books about the body. Talk about keeping healthy.
ICT	The children will learn to organise and manipulate pictures and words. They will use the mouse to select and organise elements by clicking and dragging. They will use a computer programme to assemble pictures, match pictures to text, and complete sentences.	Talk to your child about how technology helps us at home and in their local environment. For example; traffic lights, fire alarms, cash dispenser machines etc.
Geography	The classes will look at and discuss their local area and school environment. They will learn their address, where they live and describe their journey to school. The topic will focus on aspects of local features, land use, and environment. We will physically explore the surrounding local area to identify and build an awareness of the children's neighbourhood.	Point out local features of the environment. Talk about your route to school. Help your child learn where they live and their address. Explore Google maps.
PE	Gymnastic sessions will include travelling in a variety of ways on the floor and apparatus, plus obstacle courses to really challenge their skills. Dance sessions will explore seasonal and topic themes through movement and body shapes. We will also practise balls skills such as throwing and catching .	

DT/ ART	Our Art topic this term is self-portraits; the children will create self-portraits using different media to communicate ideas about themselves. They will observe a variety of portraits in drawings, paintings, sculpture and photographs by different artists. They will experiment with a wide range of art materials. In Design and Technology, linked to Science, they will be using their senses to find out about different foods that keep them healthy.	Visit an art gallery and find portraits.  Encourage them to draw portraits of their family members.
PSHE	Our focus this term will be on new beginnings. We will explore friendships and relationships relevant for the children in their day-to day school life. In addition we will also be taking part in the Be the Best You Can Be programme.	Discuss their friendships.
RE	The children will be reading and discussing stories which tell about God in relation to Christianity. They will be learning why the Creation Story is important to Christians. We will also explore festivals as they arrive, including Eid, Harvest, Rosh Hashanah.	
Music	This term we are exploring sounds all around us, body percussion and percussion instruments.	
Trips	Exploring the locality around our school.	

Dates for your diary:

Curriculum workshop for parents Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> September 7.00-8.30pm

Parents evening – Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October **4-7pm** & Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October **4-7pm**

Open Afternoon – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2.45-3.30pm

Joint Year 1 Assembly – dates to be confirmed for after half term.

Please do not hesitate to make an appointment to see us if you have any questions or concerns relating to your child. You can do this by sending a note with your child or contacting the office.

We look forward to working with you and your child. Let's have an exciting, fun filled Autumn half-term!

Yours sincerely

Ms Ali, Mr Farmer and Ms Kyriacou