



# Year 1 Autumn Term Newsletter

## **Welcome to Year 1!**

I hope you all had a wonderful summer! We're thrilled to welcome you back as we begin an exciting new academic year.

Our focus this term is to ensure a smooth and positive transition from Early Years to Key Stage 1. Learning through play remains a vital part of our school day, with staff supporting and encouraging the children's growth through independent exploration as well as adult-led sessions.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed their first week back and have settled confidently into the new routines and structure of Year 1. The Year 1 team is eager to dive into our topics and curriculum, and we look forward to a year full of discovery and progress with your children.

## **Learning Journey Topic**

Our Autumn Term topic is '**Castles and Dragons.**' As part of their History lessons, the children will explore the story of William the Conqueror and discover the key features of Motte and Bailey castles, including how these structures were designed to protect against attacks. In Geography lessons, the children will engage in local fieldwork within the village and investigate seasonal weather patterns as the year progresses.

## **English**

The children will start the term with lessons and introductory activities centred around the theme '**All About Me.**' We're incredibly excited to embark on a new English curriculum journey this year, offering wonderful opportunities for the children to showcase their creativity through imaginative writing.

For their first writing project, the children will focus on instructions and labels, inspired by the book *Jasper's Beanstalk*. This instruction-based unit will be brought to life during ChIL sessions, where the children will label parts of plants and plant their own seeds, deepening their understanding through hands-on experience.

Later in the term, we'll explore the story *Puffin Peter*, using it as a springboard for the children to develop their own storytelling skills. It promises to be a term full of rich learning and lots of fun!

Towards the end of the term, we'll dive into colour poetry, encouraging the children to reflect on what colours mean to them and how they make them feel. This unit will focus on nurturing descriptive language and will include opportunities to create beautiful artwork inspired by their poetry.

## **Mathematics**

We will begin the term by exploring positional language and ordinal numbers. Throughout the autumn term, our Maths focus will be on developing a strong understanding of number concepts, including place value, regular counting, number bonds, comparing and ordering numbers, as well as doubling, halving, and practising addition and subtraction.

**Other Core Subjects**

**Science**

This term, we will explore everyday materials. The children will identify various materials and conduct experiments to determine which ones are best suited for specific purposes. Later in the term, we will study seasonal changes, which will complement our fieldwork in Geography.

**Computing**

This year, we will follow the Kapow computing scheme. We will begin by developing basic computing skills, including mouse control and understanding simple systems. Next, we will explore unplugged programming and algorithms—an engaging topic that will prepare the children for future lessons involving algorithms on computers and tablets.

**PE**

In PE, the children will start the term learning dance, and in the second half (Autumn 2), they will focus on invasion games. During sessions with our Premier Sport PE coach, the first half of the term will emphasize striking and fielding strategies, followed by multi-skills activities in the latter half.

**Music**

In Music, we will be looking at the theme 'My favourite things' to learn and explore keeping the pulse through music and movement. This will link nicely to our 'All about me' theme in English. Later in the term, we will look at tempo. In this unit of learning we will use our bodies and instruments to respond to pieces of music with varying tempos.

**Messages**

PE days will be on a **Tuesday** and a **Friday**. Children must have their PE kit in school on these days. Children should have suitable **indoor** and **outdoor** clothes. They will bring their kit home every Friday for washing. (Please see the "meet the teacher" presentation for a note on earrings)

Library Day is on a **Friday**. If children want to change their library book, they should be in school on this day.

The children will be given 3 reading books every **Monday** for the week. These are their fully decodable, banded reading books. These will be changed the **following Monday**.

We look forward to a wonderful first term with your children, please contact the office if there is anything you wish to discuss.

*Miss Robinson, Miss Robson, Mrs Hurst*