

Year 1 Autumn Term Newsletter

Welcome to Year 1!

We hope you all had a wonderful summer and are feeling refreshed for the year ahead. We're so excited to welcome you and your children into Year 1 as we begin this new chapter together. This term, our main focus is helping the children make a happy and confident transition from Early Years into Key Stage 1. Play and exploration will continue to be an important part of our day, alongside adult-led learning that supports their growing independence.

The children have had a fantastic first week back. They've settled beautifully into their new classroom routines and are already showing great enthusiasm for learning. The Year 1 team is really looking forward to diving into our topics and activities, and we can't wait to see all the wonderful progress your children will make this year.

Learning Journey Topic

This term, we'll be exploring our exciting topic '**Castles and Dragons**'. In History, the children will learn about **William the Conqueror** and find out how **Motte and Bailey castles** were built and protected. In Geography, we'll be heading out into the village for some simple fieldwork and noticing how the **weather changes through the seasons**.

English

We'll begin the term with activities linked to '**All About Me**', giving us a lovely chance to get to know the children and help them feel a strong sense of belonging while celebrating what makes each of us unique.

Our first writing unit will be based on **Jasper's Beanstalk**, where the children will learn about instructions and labels. They'll bring this learning to life during child-initiated learning by planting seeds and labelling parts of plants — a hands-on way to deepen their understanding.

Later in the term, we'll enjoy the story **Puffin Peter**, which will inspire the children to create and tell their own stories.

Towards the end of term, we'll explore **colour poetry**, encouraging the children to think about how colours make them feel and to use descriptive language, alongside creating beautiful artwork.

Mathematics

We'll begin the term by exploring **positional language** and **ordinal numbers**, before recapping **numbers to 10**. This will build on what the children learned in Reception, giving them plenty of chances to spot patterns, count, compare amounts, and practise early addition and subtraction.

Throughout the autumn term, we'll continue strengthening their understanding of number, including **place value**, **regular counting**, **number bonds**, **comparing and ordering**, **doubling and halving**, and lots of opportunities to **solve simple problems** in fun, practical ways.

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 learning in Geography.

Computing

This year, we will continue to 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 **Monday** and a **Tuesday**. 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 2 reading books every week. These are their fully decodable, banded reading books. These will be changed the **following week**.

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, Miss Sohal and Mrs McBeal