

Class 1 Newsletter

Autumn Term 2021



Firstly, we would like to say a big, warm welcome back to families we already know and to the new children and their families joining us this year. I hope that you have all had a lovely and restful summer holiday and that the children are ready for the new school term. It has been a fantastic first few days back, as we have been exploring our classroom environment, catching up with old friends and making new. Here are some details about the exciting term ahead.

This term, we are adopting the new Early Years Foundation Stage framework, which is still underpinned by the same 'Characteristics of Effective Learning,' which informed the previous programme:

- Playing and exploring - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go.'
- Active learning - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties and enjoy achievements.
- Creating and thinking critically - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

We firmly believe that Early Years children learn best through play and through meaningful interactions with teachers and teaching assistants in the setting, who are responsible for attending to pupils' needs 'in the moment.' The EYFS curriculum is founded on seven areas of learning, which represent a holistic picture of your child's learning. First, children must develop in the three 'Prime Areas':

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: we work with the children to build their resilience and independence and enable them to form positive relationships with adults and their peers. This in turn enables them to make the most of their learning and grow in confidence in the setting.

Communication and Language: in order to prepare your child to read and write fluently later in their school lives, we will focus on developing their listening, speaking and comprehension skills.

Physical Development: the children will be given many, varied opportunities to develop their gross motor skills through building, climbing, pulling and running outside, as well as focusing on building up our fine motor skills through craft work, mark-making and playing with clay, water and sand. Once children have made progress in these prime areas, they are ready to work on the 'Specific Areas':

Literacy: the children will have plenty of opportunity to work on their early reading and early writing skills through their play. For Nursery children, this begins with giving meaning to marks they are making and showing an interest and knowledge of books, and as they move on into their Reception year, the children begin writing letters and words using their developing Phonics skills.



Mathematics: our play-based curriculum gives the children plenty of opportunities to work on their counting and to explore numbers in a concrete and real-life context. We also work to develop pupils' positional language and their knowledge of common shapes and patterns.

Understanding the World: we are passionate about equipping children to make sense of their physical world and their community. The skills we work on here lay the foundation for pupils' learning in Humanities studies later on in school life. We will be focusing on broadening your child's horizons, introducing them to characters from other cultures and the past, as well as exploring the natural world and working with maps.

Expressive Arts and Design: we will give children many opportunities to express their creativity, including building with junk modelling, a wide range of mark-making, and learning and creating their own songs, as well as encouraging their imaginative play throughout the setting.

For our children in **Reception**, this term they too will focus mainly on the prime areas of learning as set out above; however, they will learn to build and grow on the milestones they have already achieved. We will start Phase 1 of the 'Letters and Sounds' program, where the children will focus on developing their speaking and listening skills. The children will focus on listening to the sounds around them and also begin building their letter recognition as well as their segmenting and blending skills. Our children will also have the opportunity to engage with parts of the more formal topic learning provided for our Year 1 pupils if they wish to join in.

Year 1 children:

***English**

We will continue to work our way through Phase 3 Phonics and later on in the term begin Phase 5 of the 'Letters and Sounds' phonic scheme. Our learning will focus on helping children to match letters ('graphemes') to sounds ('phonemes') and we will be learning how to blend sounds together to read a word and segment sounds in our heads in order to spell a word. We will also learn a selection of 'tricky words,' which cannot be sounded out. We will practise and apply our Phonics skills every day, in discreet sessions and within our reading and writing sessions.

In our English lessons, we will be building on our good work from our time in Reception, by developing our writing skills as well as acting out and dramatising some of the books we will be focusing on this term. We will begin with the book 'The Tiger Who Came To Tea' by Judith Kerr. The children will have the opportunity to write their own shopping list of foods they think the tiger may like to eat if he came knocking on our door, as well as retelling key parts of the story in our own words. We will also create a fact file about tigers using descriptive language. Throughout the week, the children will also be working on their Guided Reading, handwriting and spellings on a daily basis.



Each week the children will bring a different book to share at home with you. We ask that books are returned back to school on a Thursday so that they can be changed and sent home again on Friday. The children will also be able to login into the exciting Bug Club, where they will also have access to a wide range of books to read at home with you.

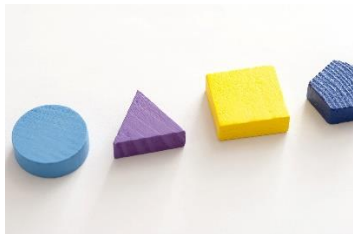


Reading with your child at home will help your child in all areas of their learning. We know that reading as often as we can stimulates children's imagination, develops their use and understanding of vocabulary, as well as expanding their understanding of the world. For reluctant readers, I have always found making a den with cushions and blankets and twinkly lights or using a torch makes things a little more exciting. Most pets also love listening to their person reading too! To supplement our Phonics, we will begin work on our handwriting. Please note that our handwriting policy advocates that the children learn to write cursively from the beginning.



***Mathematics**

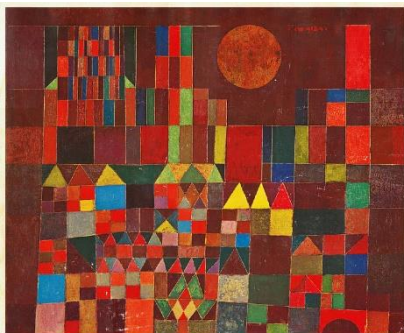
In our mathematics lessons, we will be encouraging the children to use a range of practical, written and mental methods in order to solve number calculations. We will cover sorting, counting and representing objects, as well as counting forwards and



backwards, exploring addition & subtraction and shape. Please encourage your child to practise their times tables on Times Tables Rock stars as often as possible – login details will follow.

***Foundation Subjects This Half Term – Art, Religious Education, PSHE, Music, Geography, Computing, French and Science.**

Our book choices used in English often drive forward our afternoon learning in the foundation subjects. In geography, we will begin with looking at where in the world we live and branch out to discover continents and oceans beyond Barlow. We will use maps to locate places that we come across in our learning. In art, our theme will be 'Mark Making'; the children will first learn skills such as holding a pencil correctly for drawing before exploring mark making with a variety of mediums and materials. Children will go on to learn about the famous artist Paul Klee, imitating his techniques to create their own piece of art. R.E. will continue to be a stand-alone subject as we continue to follow the North Yorkshire agreed syllabus. This term we will discuss - who



is a Christian, who is a Jew and what do they believe? In science, we will be observing the changes across the seasons throughout the year so this term we will be exploring autumn. We will also be taking a closer looker at ourselves and what makes us unique, naming body parts and discovering what our senses can do. In PSHE, our theme is 'Being in My World'; we will discuss being part of a class and how we can make our environment a safe and happy place for us to play, learn and grow. In computing, we will begin with how to keep ourselves safe online and explore Purple

Mash. French was a huge hit last year when it was introduced into Class 1 with our older children! We will be learning French salutations, learning about the French flag and its colours, famous landmarks in France and most importantly what French children eat. We will celebrate all we have learnt by enjoying a French breakfast in the week before half term.

***P.E. (FOR YEAR 1 CHILDREN ONLY)**

P.E sessions this term will take place on a Friday and will be led by Mrs Hall. Please can you ensure that your Year 1 child wears their P.E kit to school on a Friday as well as wearing a pair of suitable trainers as we do have P.E. outside as often as possible.

EYFS children take part in physical activities such as outdoor play, yoga and dancing each and every day through their play so they are not required to wear PE kit this term.

Please can you ensure that all school uniform as well as P.E. kit is named, so that it is easy to locate the owners of lost items. THANK YOU!



***Extra Information**

Mrs Hall and Mrs Dobinson continue to work in class one and we are lucky to be welcoming Mrs Parris, who is joining our team this year. We also warmly welcome Miss Morse who will work with the children on a Friday afternoon on PSHE and Religious Education activities.

For new families that are joining us, logins for the sites we will be using will be sent out in the coming week, as will reminders for our children that were with us last year. (Purple Mash, Times Tables Rock Stars, Bug Club)

Finally, a reminder that we do have an open-door policy so if there is anything you need to discuss with us, please contact the office via a phone call, or email Mrs Briggs on admin.barlow@wrfed.co.uk to make an appointment. Thank you for your continued support.

Roll on a happy new academic year!

Mrs.Al-najjar, Mrs Hall, Mrs Parris, Mrs Dobinson and Miss Morse

Class 1 Team