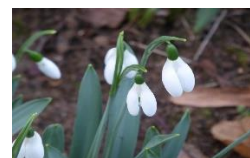


Class 1 Newsletter

Spring Term 2021



Firstly, we would like to say a big, warm, welcome back to our children and their families. We hope that you have all had a lovely and restful winter holiday and that the children are ready for the spring term ahead. It has been a fantastic first few days back, as we have been exploring our larger classroom environment and of course catching up with friends! It is very exciting as we have now expanded and made the hall area part of our classroom permanently. Here are some details about the term ahead.

The structure of our Early Years is a very child-centred one, with a free-flowing timetable which allows the children to make their own choices about what they wish to do and which items they play with. Our environment is adjusted depending on the children's interests and is changed regularly to meet individual needs.

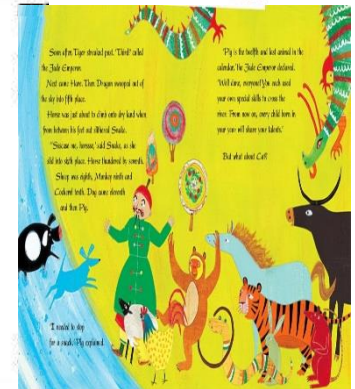
Nursery children: Our learning will continue to focus mainly around the three prime areas of the Early Years Curriculum. Personal, Social and Emotional Development: our passion is to encourage independent and emotionally secure children who enjoy sharing their learning with others. We will work closely on our turn-taking skills, to explore and investigate our surroundings and to follow the school rules. Communication and Language: in order to prepare our children to read and write fluently later on in their school lives, we do a lot of work on developing their listening, speaking and comprehension skills. We will be learning and exploring lots of stories as well as developing our language together as we play. Physical Development: we will be working on developing our gross motor skills through building, climbing, pulling and running outside, as well as building up our fine motor skills through art and craft work, mark making and playing with clay, water and sand.

For our children in **Reception**, this term they will continue to work 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. As the children grow, the specific areas will help them develop skills in Literacy, Mathematics, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. Here the children will learn about themselves and the world around them by playing and exploring, being active and through creative and critical thinking. We will continue with our phonics 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 build on their letter recognition as well as their segmenting and blending skills. The confidence gained from this experience will encourage the children to begin with early writing activities. 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 and consolidate our phonics knowledge using our bespoke phonics scheme as we prepare for the Phonics Screening Test in the summer term. We will continue to develop our skills to blend sounds together to read a word and segment sounds in our heads in order to spell words in our writing activities, as well as continuing to 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 the good work that was achieved in the autumn term, by developing our writing skills as well as acting out and dramatizing some of the books we will be focusing on this term. We will begin with instruction writing, where the children will be able to write a set of instructions on how to make a cheese and tomato sandwich. We will then explore the story 'The Great Race', an engaging story explaining why this will be the year of the tiger. This will give us the opportunity to retell key parts of the story in our own words. Throughout the week, the children will also be working on their Guided Reading, handwriting and spellings on a daily basis.

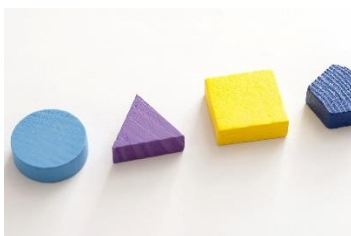


Each week the children will bring a different book to share at home with you. We ask that books are returned back to school on a Thursday so that they can be changed and sent home again on Friday. The children will also be able to login to the exciting Bug Club, where they will also have access to a 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, blankets and twinkly lights or using a torch makes things a little more exciting. Most pets also love listening to their person read too!



***Mathematics**

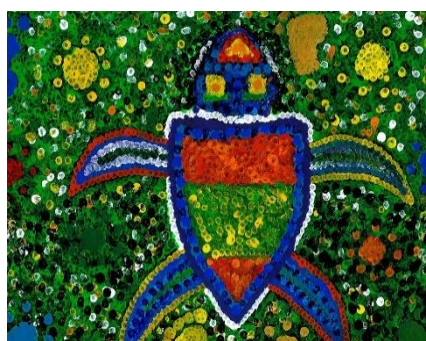
In our mathematics lessons, we will be encouraging the children to use a range of practical, written and mental methods in order to solve number calculations. We will be exploring addition & subtraction within 20 and place



value within 50. Please encourage your child to log in to Numbots as often as possible, as this will increase their confidence and consolidate their knowledge of maths.

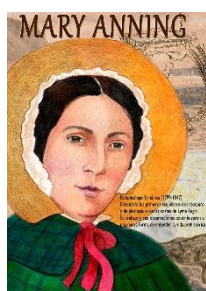
***Foundation Subjects This Half Term – Art, Religious Education, PSHE, Music, Geography, Computing, French and Science.**

Our book choices used in English and interests expressed by the children drive forward our afternoon learning in the foundation subjects. In geography, we will begin to explore the weather and climate in the United Kingdom and around the world. We will finish the topic by creating our own weather forecast and role play being a weather presenter on TV. In art lessons we will look at each of the seven continents, which we can name from previous learning. We will then create pieces of art work taking inspiration from the culture, patterns and other artists work that we explore and use this in our own work. This might be



from reflecting on nature to drawing a picture of British wildlife to making a spirit animal to go on the Totem Pole from North America, to taking inspiration from Aboriginal art techniques to carving out patterns on an elephant heading to the elephant festival in Jaipur in Asia. 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 'How and why we celebrate special times and sacred times'. In science we will be observing the changes across the seasons throughout the year so this term we will be exploring winter. We will also be taking a closer looker at animals and learning how to identify and classify a wide range of animals. In PSHE our theme is 'Dreams and Goals', we will discuss how we feel about our successes and how we can set ourselves a goal and steps to achieve it. In computing we will learn how to collect data and how we can show this in a picture format while exploring Purple Mash.

During our French sessions, we will be learning about Les Saisons – The Seasons, which links with our science and geography topics. One topic the children are particularly curious to be exploring this half term is the



story of Mary Anning from Lyme Regis, the female scientist who made an important prehistoric discovery – she found a fossil of an Ichthyosaurus. Music sessions will coincide with the arrival of the Lunar New Year, so the children will create music used during this celebration. All of the children will be given the opportunity to explore this festival with our 'Lunar New Year Day' on Tuesday 1st February.



***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.

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 Parris continue to work in Class One. We also warmly welcome Mr Bringloe who will work with the children on a Friday afternoon on Science activities.

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 to make an appointment. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs.Al-najjar, Mrs Hall, Mrs Parris and Mr Bringloe

Class 1 Team