

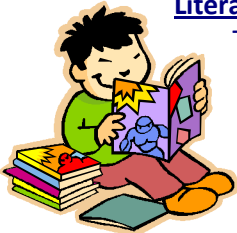
Year 1 Newsletter



Dear Parents,

I hope that your child has settled well into the class and is enjoying their time in Year 1 so far. It is a big change from FS2, and we are slowly adjusting to the routines within this different environment. The children have gone from a variety of indoor and outdoor play based experiences, to a much more formal and structured way of working, which includes much less free play time. Although every effort has been made to ensure a smooth transition, if you have any worries or concerns about your child at this time, please let me know.

Literacy



This half term in Literacy we are working on our basic writing skills, such as holding a pencil comfortably, forming letters correctly and using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces to make our writing easy to read. The children are continuing to independently identify and write their own full names, and all have their own individual targets, which will be worked on through various activities. Much of our writing will continue to be guided, and there will be opportunities for the children to develop their speaking and listening skills through our class role-play area, which will be used as part of our literacy lessons. Children will be encouraged to read a variety of books, both fiction and non-fiction, and will take part in group guided reading sessions alongside reading with us on a one-to-one basis and bringing home a reading book to share with you. The children are encouraged to read at home by using sticker incentives; we will give them a sticker each time they read one page of their book to someone at home who has signed their reading record book. When they fill their sticker chart, they can choose a small prize as a reward for their hard work.

Science

Our topic for this half term is 'Light & Dark'. Within this topic the children will be learning about different sources of light, and thinking about where our light comes from.

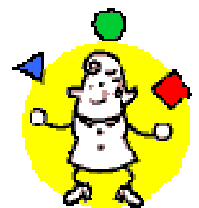
ICT



Whilst the children have used the ICT suite before, we are encouraging them to be more independent with their ICT skills, and are assisting them to log on to the computer system by themselves. We will be encouraging the children to log on to our school learning platform, and login details will be sent home to you, to allow you to share this with the children.

Maths

Throughout the Autumn Term we will work on a variety of mathematical areas. We have begun by consolidating our knowledge of the number system, and will develop this by sequencing and finding missing numbers, and solving problems involving counting. We will move on to looking at 2D and 3D shapes, asking children to describe their properties and make patterns. Following this we will undertake work on data handling and measuring.



Topic/History

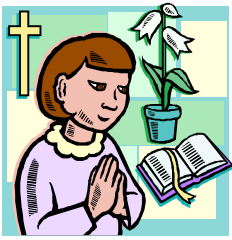


Our topic work for this half term will focus on Castles. We will be having a school trip on Monday 10th October to Tamworth Castle this half term to enhance the children's learning of this unit of work. If any parents are able to assist with this and are CRB checked, please let me know as soon as possible.

Parents Evening - Thursday 20th October

I am keen to speak to all parents to find out how the children are settling into Year 1, and am looking forward to meeting with you all at parents evening. This will give us an opportunity to discuss your child's targets for their work, and any ways in which we could work together to support your child in achieving their potential. As always, if you have any concerns or problems regarding your child at school at any time, please do not hesitate to speak to me.

Prayer book



Across the whole school, each class is sending home a small red prayer book each evening. It will be sent home with a different child each day, and they are asked to write a small prayer, a thank you, an asking or a sorry as they feel fit. There may be somebody specific that the child wishes to write the prayer about, or it could be more general. I would really appreciate your time in helping your child to do this, maybe by writing what your child dictates on their behalf. The prayer will be read out to the class by your child at the end of the day and passed on to the next person.

PE Clothes / Earrings

As the children are becoming increasingly independent within the school, it is essential that they are able to dress and undress themselves for PE. Whilst it may take a while, this is an essential skill, and we will encourage them to do everything by themselves. I have noticed that many children are struggling with the sleeves of sweaters and coats. We are pointing out to the children what they need to do to rectify the problem, and are allowing them to do this independently. I would really appreciate your support by encouraging your child to continue this at home. If your child wears earrings to school, please could you ensure that they are removed on a Tuesday and a Wednesday, or that your child is able to do this for themselves.



Reading books / Book bags



Children's reading books are changed as and when needed. Please could you write 'finished book' in the reading record book, and remind your child to place their book bag in the red box in the classroom if they need their book to be changed. It is really important that reading books and book bags are in school every day and that the children become increasingly responsible for looking after them and their contents. Although we try to go through each book bag every day, it can be difficult to see money and letters, and would appreciate you reminding your children to take these things out and hand them to us when they get into the classroom.

Library books

Library books are changed a couple of times a month at the Infant library. We rely on the support of parents to oversee and change the children's library books.



Home Time



Please bear with me whilst I get to know each of the adults who are responsible for collecting your child. As you can imagine, it is quite tricky to determine which 'grown up' belongs to each child, and I am sure that you would rather spend a little longer waiting to ensure the safety of all. If your child attends First Friends please remind your child in the morning that they are going there. If there are any changes to their normal after school routine, could you please ensure that both the after-school club and I am aware so that your child is in the right place at the right time.

Parent Helpers

We are always very appreciative of any voluntary help within the classroom. If you are CRB checked and could spare any time to help us we would be very grateful.

Thank you all for the vital contributions you provide at home in supporting your child's education with listening to your child read and supporting them with the learning log homework. By working together, we can ensure the best possible support for your child.

Mrs Royle

