



St Catherine's School
Haslewood Avenue
Hoddesdon
Hertfordshire
EN11 8HT
Acting Headteacher:
Mrs Devonshire

Curriculum Information Newsletter – Year 1
Autumn Term – 2023/24

Dear Families,

We hope you have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. It has been wonderful having the children back in school and so far we have been delighted with the children's attitudes towards learning. We hope this letter provides you with some key information about the coming school year.

The Year 1 Staff team is made up of :

Class Teachers

- Miss Deboick in Tower Heights Class
- Mrs Butler in Barclay Park Class

and Miss Henry and Miss Pottage who will be supporting in both classes throughout the week.

English

During this term we will be using many different texts as starting points for our learning in the different curriculum areas. These will include, 'Ruby's Worry', 'Rosie's Walk', 'Leaf Man', 'Can I build another me?', 'Funny Bones' and 'Jolly Postman'. They will provide a stimulus for writing labels, lists and captions, stories and a recount.

In Year 1 the focus is for the children to compose and rehearse sentences, in order to remember the words to write. They are also learning how to use finger spaces, full stops and capital letters. This takes time and is hard work! We provide many different opportunities for the children to practise their writing skills.

Phonics skills are fundamental to reading and writing so we teach discrete phonics lesson daily. We continue to follow the Little Wandle Phonics Scheme which was started when the children joined Reception. This is a systematic program which introduces a phoneme (sound) each day whilst reviewing and practising known phonemes. We continually assess the children so we know exactly what their next steps are.

Reading

Reading is extremely important as it not only opens up a world of wonder and stimulates the mind but has also been proven to: improve comprehension skills; reduce stress; improve knowledge of the world around us; expand vocabulary; improve one's punctuation use, memory, focus and concentration. Children will be bringing home a 'learning to read book' which they are expected to read at least 3 times a week. They may also bring an additional reading for pleasure book that they may wish to share with you. Please support your child by reading with them and discussing their book regularly.

In addition to this, children will take part in daily guided reading sessions in school and be exposed to a wide variety of text types in lessons across the curriculum. Each child will read with an adult up to 3 times a week. The first session focuses on using phonics skills and word reading, the second on 'prosody' (using expression and intonation) and the third on comprehension skills. The books we

read are carefully matched to their phonics knowledge as they progress through the phases of the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Scheme.

Maths

We are continuing to use the Maths No Problem and NCETM schemes this year to teach and deepen mathematical understanding across the school. This term we concentrate on securing and deepening our understanding of numbers to ten. This includes comparing and ordering numbers, addition, subtraction and problem solving. We then move onto deepening our understanding of the 'teen' numbers which includes introducing place value.

Quick recall of the number bonds to 10 is crucial; having a secure knowledge of these will allow children to focus on new mathematical concepts and solve problems. Please support your child by encouraging them to practise their number bonds at home. Initially, please do use practical resources such as 10 pennies, pieces of lego or small stones so the children can see the groups that make 10 and continue to develop their number awareness. Using Numbots is a fun way children can practise their number bonds; log ins will be sent out for this in the coming weeks.

History

This term focus for history is 'How am I making history?'. Year 1 will be learning about history personal to them, remembering special events and life in the past. They will develop their understanding of history by ordering events on a timeline and using the words 'before' and 'after' in their discussions. They will also use key vocabulary to compare the present, the past and possible changes in the future.

Geography

After half term, Year 1 will be questioning 'What is it like here?'. We will be learning about where we are in the world by using an atlas to locate the UK and Year 1 will learn the name of the country and village, town or city they live in. We will also be developing our field work by exploring the features in the school ground using a map. Finally, they will have chance to survey other children to decide where and how they could improve the school playground.

PSHE

During the first half of this term, we are learning about families and relationships. They will have chance to discuss what is a family and a friend. We will learn how to recognise emotions, how to work with others and how to form healthy friendships and work through friendship problems. After half term, we will be talking about health and wellbeing by looking at emotions and how to keep ourselves healthy and safe. We will also be thinking about sleep and relaxation, personal hygiene and sun safety. We will finish the autumn term by discussing who keeps us healthy.

DT and Art

In art, we will be making our mark! We will be making waves and experimenting with different media to create pieces of art. There will even be chance to draw from an observation by the end of the half term.

After half term, we will be constructing a windmill in DT. We will get inspiration from other windmills before designing our own. We will practice out cutting and sticking skills before moving onto building, testing and evaluating our own windmills.

Computing

During the first half of the autumn term, Year 1 will focus on online safety and exploring Purple Mash. They will learn how to log onto a computer and how to use the different parts of a computer. Year 1 will have the chance to explore Purple Mash before moving onto furthering their computing understanding.



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After half term, we will be discussing 'Technology outside of school' and how technology is used in the wider world. We will also be completing a topic called 'Maze Explorers' where we will learn how to use the direction keys to move forwards and back. We will also create our own algorithm (set of instructions) and debug them to solve any issues.

Science

In Science, we will be learning about animals and seasons in science. In the first half term, we will be learning about different animal groups and will learn more about animals through books and active learning activities.

After half term, we will be exploring Seasonal Change and starting a project for the year. We will be looking at the changes we will see from summer to autumn and autumn to winter. There is plenty of opportunities for outdoor learning in this science topic.

PE

P.E lessons will take place on Friday afternoons and will be taught by the class teacher. It is essential that children come into school on Fridays wearing a full PE kit (including well-fitting trainers). A list of P.E kit can be found on the school website and replacement kits can be ordered via the office.

Year 1 will also be taking part in swimming lessons with Mrs Hassell whilst it is still warm enough. These lessons will take place on Tuesday and your child will need to bring in: a swimming costume or swimming trunks, a swimming hat and a towel. It is recommended that your child brings a pair of pool side shoes (flip flops or sliders) to wear around the pool. Goggles are optional.

Lunchtimes

As we would like to use all of our outdoor space for play all year round, we would ask that children bring in a pair of **named** wellies/sturdy boots/trainers that can be kept at school for use at lunchtime. They will also need a waterproof coat or jacket as we are likely to be outside in all weathers! As the weather starts to get wetter and colder, you may wish to send a spare pair of clothes in with your child. We will send a reminder message as the weather starts to change.

Homework

We expect children to read regularly at home both with an adult and by themselves. The more you show an interest in and support your child's reading by listening to them read and talking about their books with them, the more you will emphasise the importance of this vital life skill. We recommend that you read with your child at least three times a week, but obviously, the more, the better!

Communication

We are excited to be back at school and to start working with your children. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you in advance for your support this year. If you have any questions or queries at any point, please do not hesitate to contact us through the school office.

Kind regards,
The Year 1 Team



Let your light shine

