

April 2025

Year 1

Dear Parents,

It feels strange to be writing the final curriculum letter of the year. The children have worked hard and learned so much already this year and are all flourishing into pupils ready to meet the end of Year 1 expectations.

English

Our focus texts for this half term are Superworm and The Queen's Hat where we will continue to focus on writing in sentences with capital letters at the beginning and full stops at the end. We will seek to improve the spelling of common exception words and tricky words as well as continuing to develop spelling through phonics rules (including how to choose between the ay sound in play, and the ai sound in snail). Drama and talk underpins much of our learning in English as we get to know the texts well before embarking upon our writing projects. The second half term will build on similar skills, and offer opportunity for individual consolidation of skills using the texts Billy and the Beast and A.A. Milne's poem 'When I was one' to support further rhyme and poetry skills.

Mathematics

We will continue to build on our knowledge of numbers within 100 and apply this to concepts like weight, mass and capacity. After half term, we will have plenty opportunity to consolidate learning from earlier in the year to help ensure pupils have a solid understanding of the learning before the Summer holidays. A focus in maths will continue to be reasoning and problem solving where pupils will have increasing opportunities to grapple with tricky multi-step questions and explain their reasoning when solving problems. Addition, subtraction and fractions will be consolidated as we move through the different maths units too.

PSHE

These lessons continue to take a focus on wellbeing and personal development. The main modules are Relate and Engage. In Relate, pupils explore what makes positive friendships, learn the importance of kindness and teamwork, and practise active listening to help them understand others' feelings and get along well. In Engage, children begin learning how to set simple goals, stay motivated, and persevere when things feel challenging, helping them develop resilience and confidence. Additional lessons throughout the term relate to building healthy habits and social skills, supporting children in recognising emotions, making friends. You can find login details to the MyHappyMind app in the front of your child's reading record.

Other Subjects

Geography lessons will build on our science lessons about the weather as we consider how different weather types form. During History lessons, we will be examining the life of Charles Darwin which will align with some of our learning in science relating to animals. Design Technology lessons will revolve around food technology as we plan some healthy fruit skewers considering colour, flavour and texture as well as developing cutting skills. In Art, we will be using textiles and will do weaving to make landscapes. We will also be building on our seasonal changes work as we think about the changes between spring and summer. Later in the term we will consolidate the year's learning with a unit on scientists and inventors. Computing continues to be taught through the Purple Mash platform and will include creation of animated characters.

Headteacher: Vicki Charlesworth MA (Cert.Ed) NPQH

Deputy Headteacher: Laura Webster BA (Hons) NPQSL

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This term, PE will be on a **Wednesday** and a **Friday**. Children should wear their PE kit on both days. Children will be taking part in 'Fairy tale dance' and multiport athletics. Mrs Gage continues to be our music specialist teaching lessons on pitch, performance and singing.

Homework

It is the school expectation that children **read daily for at least 15 minutes** and that this is recorded in the child's reading record. Children will continue to have at least 2 books each week having read them with an adult in school. In advance of Year 2 where weekly spellings are given and tested, please do begin informally quizzing your child on the spellings in the inside cover of the reading record. This may be orally over dinner. Similarly, practising counting on or counting back in ones from any number 100 or less and counting from 0 in 2s, 5s and 10s is advisable in preparation for Year 2.

Additional Information

Mr Gallichan will teach the class on a **Wednesday** morning and will be teaching History and P.E. It will also be on a Wednesday that children will change their **library book**.

Finally, thank you for your support of your child's education. Little and often really is the key to building confidence with skills like reading, spelling and maths and your efforts at home do pay off. We always encourage children to advocate for themselves, so please do encourage them to ask any questions about anything they are unsure about. Equally, if you have any questions about class routines or any other matters, please feel free to speak to me in person or get in touch via the email address below.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Hopkins

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