

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 1. We hope you have had a lovely holiday and are ready to come back to school. We are launching this year off with our 'House for Sale!' topic where the led subject is Science. We hope to inspire the children's interest and curiosity with chicks, an ant hill and pond snails in the classroom. What's more, we have arranged for a birds of prey demonstration in the school hall.

We ask that all children bring a water bottle to school each day. We will be having a set snack time after break where the children will be given a piece of fruit. If your child struggles with the selection of fruit provided, please feel free to send in a piece of fruit (this can be dried).

This year the school English team is running a whole school reading initiative called 'BookFlix'. Each year group has been asked to create a bookmark with suitable challenges for the term. For those who complete the book mark, they will receive a certificate and sticker in assembly. We ask that these are handed in the week before the Christmas holidays.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 13th October- Individual Photographs
Monday 18th October- STEM Week
Thursday 21st October- Flu Vaccinations
Friday 22nd October- School Closes
Tuesday 2nd November- School Opens

English

In English this half term we will be using a range of animal stories to inspire the children to write. We will spend time working on The High 5 for writing, letter formation and phonics application.

In Year 1 the children get the opportunity to visit the school library once a week. Please can you ensure that they have this book on a Thursday to swap.

Reading books should have now been given out. Children are expected to change these themselves. They can change them as soon as they have read them. We ask that you read with them at least 4 times a week. They will also be listened to in school both individually and as part of guided reading.

Spellings and phonics are really important so if you wish to do some extra practise with your child we have put the common exception words, tricky words and phonics mats into the back of their reading record. These will be tested at random points in the year to check children's progress.



House for Sale!

During this half term we will be starting 'House for Sale!' topic which will run into the second half of the autumn term. Our final outcome for this topic will be a structure for an animal that can be placed in our forest school area or school garden.

Maths

In maths we will start by looking at Place Value within 10. The focus of this unit will be using reasoning and problem solving skills to answer questions. Children will be asked to identify numbers quickly through representation without counting. They will be introduced to the >< and = symbols. We will then move onto addition and subtraction with 10. Here we want to build up the children's fluency. A great place to support this is live Mathematics. What is their top score on level 1?

Science

Our science topic for this half term is 'Animals including humans'. As part of this unit the children will be learning to classify and identify by sorting animals. Will be learning about the animal groups. We will be looking at what animals eat and discussing adaptations to their environment.



PE

Children will have their weekly outdoor games session on a Tuesday afternoon with the school sports coaches.

They will also have a weekly gymnastics session on a Friday morning with Mrs Buchanan to continue working on their BAGA awards.

The children will also have a weekly forest school session on a Thursday afternoon. If conditions are less favourable due to the weather, we will ask the children to change into their outdoor games kit and wear their coat.

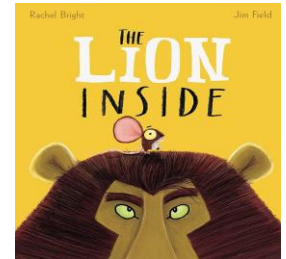
Art

In Art we will be looking at the work of Charlie Harper as inspiration for our collage unit. The children will be learning to create images using the technique of collage. They will learn the skills of cutting, folding, crumpling, tearing, pleating and overlapping papers. They will then use what they have learnt to make their own animal collage picture.



Music

In music we will be learning a range of songs about animals. We will be developing our listening skills whilst listening and responding to 'The Carnival of the Animals' (Le Carnaval des animaux) by the French composer Camille Saint-Saëns. The children will also get to compose their own music to accompany the story 'The Lion inside'.



ICT

This term in ICT they will be learning to log in safely and independently into Purplemash. They will learn to search Purple Mash to find resources. They will also learn to find saved work in the Online Work area and find teacher comments. With this developing fluency we will then move on to a grouping and sorting unit which fits in with our science topic. The children will learn to sort items on the computer using the 'Grouping' activities in Purple Mash.



RE

In RE we will look at the focus question 'Who is a Christian and what do they believe?'. Through this topic we will look at Christian beliefs about God. We will look at the roles of God. We also look at what the bible says about God through the stories of 'Jonah' and 'The lost sheep'.

PHSCE

The focus of PHSCE this half term will be about settling back in school. We will be developing the children's understanding of the GROW values and how these affect how we conduct ourselves within school. The children will learn about what makes them unique and how to set simple goals. They will learn about group and class rules. They will also learn how to contribute to the life of the classroom. They will also carry out this half term's anti-bullying session.