



Y1 Curriculum Newsletter

Spring 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Hello and Happy New Year! We hope you have had a good break. It is lovely to see the children back in school this term, refreshed and ready to learn. This letter is to let you know details of our learning over the spring term and a reminder of some Year 1 routines.

Curriculum

Our topic this term for Year 1 is **Toys**. A main focus of this topic will be **history** where we will be thinking about toys from the past up to now. Our trip to Abbey House Museum will support this learning where we will look at toys from the past first hand. This topic will also include a science focus of learning about everyday materials (e.g. wood, plastic, metal, etc.) and the properties of these materials including investigating these properties (e.g. waterproof, flexibility). In **geography** we will be learning about the four countries of the United Kingdom and their capital cities and use maps, atlases and globes. Our **art** sessions will focus on texture and pattern linking to our science learning around materials. In **DT** we will apply our science learning about materials to make items for a toy e.g. chair or shelter for a teddy. Our **computing** sessions will involve collecting images of toys (from the past and modern) using the internet. We will also be using programmable toys (e.g. BeeBots) to follow a given route. In **RE** we will be thinking about how and why we care for others and continuing to think about our Year 1 value of Kindness. In **PSHCE** we continue to learn how to use the Zones of Regulation and we will be using the Leeds NHS Mindmate materials particularly looking at recognising emotions and feelings; healthy relationships with friends and celebrating what makes us special, unique and different. In **music** we will be exploring pitch and rhythm and learning about different styles of music. Our **PE** sessions will begin with a focus on dance on the theme of toys and will also include gymnastics, multi-skills and games. In **English** we will be continuing to use the FFT *Success for All* programme. We will also use our topic and stories as a stimulus for writing. This half term we will be particularly focussing on *Lost in the Toy Museum* by David Lucas and next half term we will be exploring traditional tales. In **maths** our learning will begin with looking at place value, addition and subtraction within 20 and progress to place value of numbers to 50. We will end the term with a focus on measurement of length and height followed by weight and volume.

Each day the children will continue to be given the very valuable opportunity to follow their own interests with 'area time' in the areas of provision, exploring and learning for themselves. We know how important this time is for the children so will continue with this approach to the end of the year.

Routines

Many of our routines continue to be the same as for the Autumn term. We will continue to listen to children read each week, so please send your child's book and reading record in each day in their book bag.

PE Kit – Please ensure your child has PE kit in a named bag to keep in school for the half term. PE kit is white or purple t-shirt, plain dark shorts, leggings or jogging bottoms and pumps or trainers.

Water bottles - We encourage children to have regular drinks of water during the day so please could you provide your child with a named water bottle that they take home and bring back each day with fresh water.

Milk - If you would like your child to have milk, please make sure you log onto Cool Milk Limited. If you have not registered previously, the office can give you more details.

Sound Books – Please make sure your child has their sound book with them on a Monday, so that we can update it each week.

How you can help

Regular **reading** with your child is vital in Year 1. This should be a short session of about ten minutes at least three times per week to enable your child to practise their phonic skills and to recognise Red Words by sight. Please date and sign your child's reading record so that we know they have read their home reading books.

It would also be great if you could help your child with their spelling of Red Words, starting with the ones from reception class (these are on the Red Word mat that has already been sent home. You will receive a separate **homework** leaflet with details about our big homework project this half term and ideas for other activities you can do together at home. Well done and thank you for the homework that was completed last term. It was lovely to see the things children had worked on at home.

We would also like to let you know that this term we will be joined by a student teacher from Leeds Trinity University on her teaching placement. Her name is Emma Saunders and she will be with us for the next eight weeks.

Finally, please do continue to come and talk to us about your child with any questions or concerns you may have. We want to work with you to keep your child safe, happy, and learning well. Feel free to catch us at the start or the end of the day or ask at the office to make an appointment.

Sarah Coulter



Alexa Raey



Mandeep Atwal



Staff working in class this term	PE Days	Sound Book	Reading book bag	School Library book day
Sarah Coulter (teacher) -Everyday Mandeep Atwal (Teaching assistant) -Everyday -Alex Raey (Teaching assistant) -Every morning -Sara Mitchell (teacher) -Covering PPA on Monday afternoons	Our PE days are Monday and Wednesday but please have kit in all the time just in case these change due to weather.	Please bring in each Monday, so they can be updated.	Please ensure reading books are in the book bag everyday as we will listen to children read throughout the week. Home reading books will be changed once a week. We will also be sending out a copy of the class reading book as an e-book each week for you to use to further support at home.	Thursday – we will visit the school library once a week for children to borrow a book. Please make sure they bring it on this day to change for a new one!