

Year 1 Newsletter – Autumn Term 2



Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you all had a restful break. We are looking forward to a busy half term ahead! The following is an overview of what your child will be taught in the second half of the Autumn term, as well as general timetabling information. Our overall big question is 'How do humans look after themselves and each other?' We will be discussing this in class, and making links throughout the curriculum to deepen our responses to this.

In **English**, we will begin by writing poems about the weather and seasons. We will be looking at texts such as Shirley Hughes' 'Out and about' and learning what a poem is, how we choose the words to include in our poem and writing our own shape poem about the rain. Later on in the half term we will be reading the story 'When will it be Spring?' by Catherine Walters and writing our own version of the story. We will also be learning about how to write a non-fiction text, and writing our own information book about the seasons. Our **reading** programs of daily DSR and Jolly Phonics will carry on. In Phonics we are encouraging children to read phonetic books to apply their understanding of the phonics they have learnt. In DSR we make sure we are also focussing on comprehension skills such as retelling a story and inferring how a character might be feeling. Please do come and join us **this Friday morning (the 1st of November) at 8.45–9.15** to read with your child in class.

Our **Maths** focus this half-term will be on addition and subtraction. We will be learning how to count on mentally to add two groups together, use a number line to help us add and use part whole models to create our own number sentences. In subtraction we will begin by using physical objects to take away, then move onto crossing out pictures. Children will become confident with the subtraction symbol, using the number line to count back and part whole models to subtract. We will also be learning to name and describe the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. We will focus on different ways we could sort the shapes, using the language of their properties to explain our choices.

Our **Geography** topic is 'The UK and its weather'. We will be learning about the four countries that make up the United Kingdom including their flags and capital cities. We will use atlases to find this information. We will then learn about the different types of weather associated with each season. We will decide on the right clothes you need for each weather, learn what the weather symbols represent, create our own weather forecast and learn how to keep safe in extreme weather.



Our **Science** topic connects to Geography as we are learning about the seasons. We will be focussing on the changes that happen during each season, learning about what animals do in Winter and making our own weather station.

In **Music** we will be using our bodies and instruments to create pieces of music linked to each season. We will think about rhythm, and which instruments would best represent different types of weather.

In **Computing**, we will talk about online safety and being kind online. Then children will also learn how to program Code-a-Pillars and Beebots and make weather maps in PurpleMash.

Finally, our “big question” in **Religious Education** this term is: *‘Nativity Characters “Which Character Are You? Why Are You Important?”* In this unit we will look at each character from the Nativity story and what they represent. We will learn how important each person is to the story and discuss which character is most important to us.

At the moment the swimming pool is still closed, we are waiting for an update on when the pool will be open. We will continue with a short physical activity session on **Thursday** and a longer PE session on **Friday** afternoon. Please ensure your child brings the correct kit on these days.

Our **library** slot is on **Thursday afternoon**. We were unable to change books due to training happening on the last week of term in the library so we apologise that slot was missed.

Homework will be given out in the first week of the half term. Homework will consist of suggested activities for each week. Please bring in the work you do complete so we can acknowledge that in school. There will be another project homework set. Children will have a weekly **spelling test on Monday**.

Children will have their **reading books** changed weekly. Please send your child to school with their reading record and reading book each day, as we will take the opportunity to read with them whenever we can.

We will let you know in the next week about a trip or workshop planned for this half term.

Mr Lawry continues to have his planning time on a Tuesday afternoon and Miss Sheppard on a Wednesday afternoon. Miss Sheppard will also have subject leadership time on a Thursday afternoon. Billy-Jo will cover the classes during this time. We are really looking forward to this half term, building on the great progress that was made last half term. Please don't hesitate to come to us with any questions you might have.

Best wishes,

Miss Sheppard, Zin, Mr Lawry, Isabel and Billy-Jo

