

# Autumn 1

## Curriculum Letter

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

A warm welcome to Year 1! We hope you had a great summer and are looking forward to the new school year. We have been delighted to see the children so enthusiastic in coming into school and so settled in their new classes with friends from Year R and new friends too. We hope you can attend the 'Year 1 Welcome Meeting' which will take place on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September** in the infant hall. We have a very committed and enthusiastic Year 1 team who work together to achieve the best for your children and to make this a very happy and memorable year of school. We would like to introduce you to the class teams:

**Rabbit Class:** Class Teachers Miss Prior and Mrs Arnott, Teaching Assistant Mr Segun.

**Owl Class:** Class Teacher Miss Ruck, Teaching Assistant Mrs Chadwick.

**Mole Class:** Class Teacher Mrs Hillier, Teaching Assistants Mrs Sweetnam and Miss Whitfield



### Curriculum

Our topic this half-term is called '**Once Upon a Town**' and we will be focusing on characters and events from well-known traditional tales such as 'Little Red Riding Hood', 'The Gingerbread Man' and 'The ugly duckling'. It is a fantastic starting point for lots of English work including role-play, for teachers and children alike! Throughout the unit the children will learn to write labels, lists, captions and they will create their own gingerbread man story.



In phonics they will be learning to read and write words with the new phase 5 digraphs. To consolidate your child's blending skills we will send home lists of words concentrating on the sounds your child is currently learning. This will also be sent as a Marvellous Me. A couple of minutes on sound recognition before reading each day can really help boost your child's confidence.

In mathematics they will be learning to count to and across 100, forward and backwards from any given number. They will also be learning to read and write numbers in numerals and words to 10 and to solve a range of addition and subtraction questions. To support your child at home you may wish to encourage them to practise writing their numbers to 20 as they can often reverse digits.

In design and technology they will be creating a moving picture based on a traditional tale. They will look at a range of books with moving pictures and use this to help them to create their own design. They will learn about different mechanisms and evaluate the most effective for their picture.

### Celebration event

As part of this exciting topic the children will be invited to a 'book character party' on **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October**. In school, they will write a list of items they need for the party. They will need to come into school dressed as a traditional character. You will be invited into school for the children to share their work throughout the topic and to taste their baking. This will take place at **2.50pm** in your child's classroom. Please see more information on the attached letter.



### Reading books and Reading diary.

Your child's class teacher will read with your child during their first 2 weeks to confirm the best colour for their current reading level. Your child will be given a new book each week and this will be carefully selected by their teacher. Please practise this book several times so that your child is confident and can answer questions about what they've read. Reading at home should be a pleasurable experience and a chance for your child to consolidate what they've learnt and show off their new skills. If your child would like an additional book, they can choose one from their coloured book box when they arrive in the morning. Please check your child's reading diary for targets to work on, and use it to communicate your own comments about your child's reading progress. It is essential your child has their reading diary in school every day. Please see more information about reading on the attached letter. Your child's teacher will write a detailed comment at least once per half term but will check it regularly.

## Spellings

The children will continue to learn more words which cannot be phonetically decoded. We will send home the 'common exception' lists so that children can practise spelling these during the course of the half term. They will be tested on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October to see how many they can spell correctly. If your child can already spell these words, please encourage your child to write the word in a range of sentences.

## PE



PE times are as follows

**Mole Class - Tuesday   Rabbit Class - Monday   Owl Class - Tuesday**

Please ensure your child has a full PE kit, including plimsolls or trainers, in school each week and that all clothing is clearly named.

## Library

Library times are as follows:

**Mole Class - Thursday   Rabbit Class - Thursday   Owl Class - Wednesday**



Your child will need to have their library books available on these days to be able to change them regularly. They will change them on a fortnightly basis.

## Home learning

For your child's home learning we would like your child to make a puppet for their favourite traditional story. Please see the attached letter for more information. We ask for this to be handed in on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October**.

## Parental support



The Year 1 team recognises how valuable parental support is to children's learning and the school community. We are always extremely grateful for any additional time that parents are willing to give to the school. If you are interested in sharing books with children, teaching them some basic cookery skills, or working within the class on a regular basis to support groups of children in their activities, please talk to your child's teacher. We ask that you are able to make a regular commitment to help, and understand that we allow children a settling time until after half term before we will invite volunteers in to classes.

Yours sincerely

Year 1 team