



Year 1 Curriculum News



Welcome Back

We do hope you have enjoyed a wonderful Christmas and New Year. We also hope you enjoyed the Christmas experiences which were provided. It seems a long time ago since we organised and ran the stalls so successfully at the Christmas Fair and won the Christmas tree festival competition. Christmas time is so unique as a primary child and we hope we have filled their hearts and minds with memories. Thank you for all the support and encouragement with the seasonal activities. We thank you for your goodwill messages, cards and gifts which are so generous and kind.

We look forward to an exciting 2018 ahead as we continue our Year 1 learning journey into Sculpture and exploring materials. After half term will explore both our local area and learning about homes in the past.

History

As part of our history curriculum we will be learning about homes in the past and are hoping to host a question time session. We would love to invite any parents, grandparents, aunts or uncles, great aunts and great uncles or close family friends into school to share their early childhood memories of their homes. Please could you let Mrs Stillings, Mrs Hannah or Miss Marson know if you have any relative or friend who would be able to participate after February half term. Date to be confirmed shortly.



Rex Respect

A big thank you for the great care you are taking with Rex and for the amazing adventures he is going on. It is a pleasure to hear about his amazing weekends of fun each week!



Writing

This term we are focussing on developing story writing skills while continuing to apply punctuation such as full stops and capital letters accurately.

We are developing our language skills, choosing words for effect such as adjectives and powerful verbs to give the reader a vivid description of the setting and characters. We are already very excited to reach our end goal of writing our own version of the class text. In Mrs Stillings the text is 'George and the Dragon' and Miss Marson's is 'The Three Little Pigs' and alternative versions such as 'The Three Little Wolves and the Big Bad Pig'.

Reading books

Reading is key to early language development, please continue to support your child by listening to them read and enjoying sharing stories together. Reading to your child enables them to access vocabulary and texts that they would not normally be able to read themselves. Here is a link to the Literacy Trust on helping your child with reading.
<http://www.wordsforlife.org.uk>

We hope that you will support us by listening to your child read regularly at home, ideally four or more times each week.



Art and Design

Our overarching theme is 'Sculpture' so we are looking into using different materials linking to our science topic. We will be looking at sculptures made with different materials such as recycled junk, clay, cardboard, stone, wood, plasticine and metal. We will then create our own sculptures based on what we have researched in class.



Science

Our Science topic is materials and we will be exploring types of materials and their properties. We will be learning about the ways in which materials are used for different purposes and why that material has been chosen. Towards the end of the term, experiments will be carried out to test suitability of materials for given uses.

Spellings

Year 1 Common Exception Words

Please note that spellings are informally checked week. We are trying to teach children to use their phonic knowledge when it applies and recall the Year 1 common exception words and some more tricky spellings that frequently occur in texts. Reading of words is often stronger than the spelling of them at this stage but the more they practise the more automatic this will become. Spellings are issued every Friday for practise in the planners.

a	is	said	be	no	put
ask	his	says	he	go	push
	has	the	me	so	pull
are		they	she		full
our		there	we	of	one
	was	here		love	once
do	were	I	by	come	school
to	where	you	my	some	friend
today	want	your			house

Children are expected to be able to spell all common exception words by the Summer term.

A good strategy when a child asks you how to spell something is to ask them what sounds they can hear and what patterns they have learned for these sounds. The good old English language has many anomalies though so learning to spell takes times to master!

For example the 'ee' sound can be spelt ee (bee), ea (tea), ey (monkey), e, (he), e_e (these), ie (thief). Also, little mnemonics can be useful for unusual words such as:

Because: 'big e^lephants can always understand small e^lephants'

Could, would, should: 'O u lucky duck'

My/me distinction: 'my with a y, me with an e'

PE

A polite reminder that children require both an indoor and outdoor PE kit in school. They do require TRAINERS as part of their outdoor PE kit. Please ensure that your child brings their kit into school on a Monday and this remains at school for the week. It is essential that they have both an indoor and outdoor kit including trainers as we go outside for games each week. Please can we ask that girls also have an extra pair of socks in their PE bag, so they have something on their feet when taking off tights.



Thank you for your continuous support in this matter.

Phonics in Year 1

We will be teaching Phonics for 30 minutes each day. Initially the children will have chance to re-cap sounds they have previously learnt and then we will move onto learning new sounds. Phonics is proven to help children with their reading and their spelling so we feel it is a very important part of their learning. You will notice as your child reads that they may start blending two or more letter sounds together to make 1 sound, for example l-igh-t, the word light has 5 letters but 3 sounds. Please encourage your child at home to sound and blend unfamiliar words rather than telling them the word. Many words in their books can be decoded by using phonics.

Phonics

Here's to a happy, fun and exciting term where lots of fantastic learning takes place!

