



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome back to school and to the start of Key Stage One! We are delighted to be back and very much hope that you and your child are beginning to settle well into the new school routine. We are enjoying our time with the class, getting to know each other and expanding our enthusiasm and motivation for learning.

We are really looking forward to our Year 1 learning journey this year and hope that your child thrives, makes good progress and enjoys the year. With this in mind, the following information about the curriculum this term should help you understand what we are covering and guide you in supporting your child. These topics have been devised to capture the children's imagination and inspire them in their learning.

Reading

Reading is **the** key to accessing every area of the curriculum so it vital that together we support their progress in this area. The children have been issued with a new reading diary in which to record their reading both in school and at home. Your support with daily reading and the discussion of texts at home really helps to progress skills in reading. These discussions should not only focus on the fluency of reading but on key comprehension skills such as sequencing and prediction. Having read with your child please make a brief, positive comment in the reading diary.

Reading books will be changed and diaries will be checked on **Mondays and Thursdays**. A 'Bug Club Phonics' book will be chosen and sent home for a week on a **Monday**. This book reflects the sounds the children have learnt in lessons already; please re-read these to develop their fluency of tricky phonic sounds. We will be teaching our phonics daily through the programme, 'Bug Club'.

Homework

Alongside daily reading, Key Stage One children will be set additional homework tasks. Homework will be set on a **Thursday** to be completed by the **following Tuesday**. Homework should be completed and returned to school in the homework folders they have been issued with.

The homework set helps consolidate the work done in class, this includes phonic sounds, along with English and maths topics. We will be teaching the children to form their letters cursively in order to help them to achieve joined-up handwriting early. With this in mind, as we develop this skill please encourage your child to complete their homework task using cursive script and with clear presentation.

As in previous years, during each small term your child will have a spelling list – their Spelling Star words. The words on this list are Year 1 high frequency words along with tricky words that are often misspelt, so learning these will be essential for both their writing and reading skills. They will be tested on these during the last week of each short term. Please encourage your child to practise spellings and revisit old spellings they found challenging. It will be of benefit as they continue up through the years.

Spelling Shed

In Year 1 we will be setting the children Spelling Shed homework each week as well; passwords for this will be sent home with your child. Spellings will be set on a Thursday with your child then being tested on these words the following Thursday.

P.E.

Swan class will be having P.E on a Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon with Mr. Whittle. On these days they should come to school in their PE kits, staying in them all day. For the vast majority of the year, sessions will be outdoors so it is important that the children have trainers in school. The uniform is sport polo shirts (with or without the school logo) and navy shorts, although as the weather gets colder the children will need navy track suit bottoms instead of shorts. Please see the website for school uniform information. ALL items of uniform should be named. We are always grateful to parents who do this; it is incredibly helpful, as we often spend considerable amounts of

time trying to reunite children with unnamed uniform or trying to locate uniform when a child loses an item which is not named.

Classroom Equipment

In Key Stage One all stationary is supplied in a shared table pot. Therefore, the children do not need to bring in their own pencil cases or equipment. Children can bring on their own packed lunch or you can pre-order a hot meal using our online system.

Water bottles should be filled each morning before school and in KS1, as in Reception, we serve fruit at snack times. As cloakroom space is limited, please ensure your child has a bag which is suitable for their needs and not over-sized, ideally the Holy Trinity book bag which they were presented with last year. They need bring nothing else to school.

Curriculum

In **English**, Year 1 will focus on reading skills, segmenting and blending phonic sounds with Bug Club, early SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) and handwriting. These skillsets will be developed through the study of stories such as 'The Three Little Pigs' and other traditional tales with a variety of repetition for example, "I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down". Once these key skills are introduced with traditional texts, Swans will then focus on stories embedded in the story of Christmas from the Bible.

We will focus on using the correct pencil grip and seating position when writing so that good habits are embedded, and the children will practise forming all letters correctly and cursively. We are aiming for the class to write clear sentences demarcated with capital letters and full stops, a key target for the year.

In **Maths** this term, the children will be learning about place value within 10. A concrete understanding of place value underpins nearly every type of mathematical method so it is fundamental to strengthen this knowledge. We will do this by sorting, counting, comparing and ordering numbers moving onto how to add and subtract these numbers in a multitude of ways.

In **Science** this term the topic will be materials. By the end of the topic the children should be able to distinguish between objects and the materials they are made out of, identify a variety of materials and compare the properties of shape and their use. We will use experiments, group work and outdoor work to discover more about the everyday materials we use. We will also study the work of the scientist Charles Macintosh. Moving forward, we will then investigate seasonal changes, observing and gathering evidence on how we experience the four seasons, their differences and similarities and the weather associated with each season.

Our **Geography** topic this half term starts with a study of their locality, the UK, including the exploration of the four countries that encompass the UK, their capital cities and the surrounding oceans. We will use a variety of resources such as atlases, digital and paper maps and globes. Swans will develop their understanding of simple compass directions (North, South, East and West) and locational and directional language [for example, near and far; left and right], to describe location. During the second half of the term, our **History** work will centre around castles, looking at the past and present using a local significant place, Windsor Castle.

Our theme for **RE** this term is 'belonging' and we will take a look at signs of belonging – for example 'What do we get from belonging to a group?' We will explore the definition of belonging, how this relates to our lives and within the Christian community. The events and underlining moral of the story, 'The Lost Sheep', will promote the idea of how we are special and what makes us feel this way. Moving towards Christmas, the children will explore and compare the celebration of Harvest and Christmas, questioning their meaning, differences and similarities.

PSHE will encompass a topic on relationships, starting with exploring what our family looks like and moving on to discussing how we can promote positive friendships through using kind and respectful words. In **Art & DT** Swans will begin their Autumn Term building windmills before ending the term with painting, printing and a study of the artist Jasper Johns. In **Computing**, the children will be introduced to algorithms for the first time. Within **Music** this term we will be exploring how to keep a pulse.

This term the children can look forward to Science & Technology Week and then Maths & Computing Week as we have in the past.

We are excited about teaching your children and having a very productive Autumn Term. We are very excited to meet you all over the course of the year and look forward to you being a part of the Key Stage 1 team at Holy Trinity. Once again, if there is anything you are unsure of, please contact us through the office, and we will arrange to speak to you.

Thank you for your support.

Miss Bowater and the Year 1 Team