



Autumn 2 Newsletter – Information for Parents Date: 2nd November 2020 Class 1 TJ

Dear Parents/carers

Welcome back to school – we hope you all had a relaxing half term. As usual we have a busy term ahead, with a new topic leading us up to the Christmas break. We are already thinking about how we might perform our Christmas Nativity in the current circumstances. This will be announced soon!

Class Routines

Children are brilliant with the new routine of finding a spot to stand on in the playground at 8.30 am each morning. The reception children are encouraged to hang up their coats and unpack their own book bags, water bottles etc which they are now independently able to do. They then have to wash their hands. They settle to an activity that's on offer, with phonics starting soon after. All our new nursery children have also settled very well into school, so well done to them! Nursery and Reception children continue to receive free milk if they are under five years old. If you wish to pay for your child to have milk, please register online with the 'cool milk' scheme. As usual, all children need a pair of wellies in school plus a waterproof coat as we go out in all weathers.

Our **PE** lessons are on Tuesday and Friday afternoons. On Tuesday if the weather is bad, this will take place in the hall. On Friday afternoons, PE takes place outside unless it is our classes turn to use the hall. Therefore, please ensure your child has an outdoor PE kit for Friday afternoons, eg jogging bottoms if it is cold.

Last term our topic had a Geography focus, whereas this term our topic has a History focus. The title of our **topic** for this half term is '**Magical Moments**' where we look at 'Events beyond living memory'. Within this topic we will focus on The Great Fire of London. We shall also study fire safety and the role of today's firefighters. How and why we celebrate Christmas is also part of our topic.

In **Science** our topic is Materials. The children will learn to; distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made; identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and rock; describe the simple physical properties of a variety of everyday materials; compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties. This links nicely to our Great Fire of London topic.

Children in the **Early Years Foundation Stage** will use their senses to explore collections of materials with different or similar properties. For example, natural materials such as contrasting pieces of bark - different types of leaves and seeds - different types of rocks - different shells and pebbles etc to investigate and talk about. They will also look at changing materials such as when cooking or melting. In addition to this they will plant bulbs in our outdoor area too. The **Role Play** area will link to our topic and will be set up as a bakery!

In **English** we are continuing to focus on phonics. The Year 1 children are now starting phase 4 of letters and sounds, before moving onto phase 5. Phase 5 sees the introduction of the alternative

ways of writing (graphemes) the sounds already learnt. For example, the sound ee can be written as ea as in meat, ie as in thief and with a letter in the middle as in theme. The children will be learning how to correctly form and punctuate sentences within these sessions. They will learn to add prefixes and suffixes to spellings, as well as ing, er, ed and est.

They will be given a phonics book to practice these sounds at home as they need to be applying them in their writing when spelling tricky words. In addition, the children will cover some aspects of poetry, narratives, recounts and instructions, as well as work linked to Christmas. Texts will be linked to our topic and will include non-fiction texts.

Children in the **EYFS** will continue to develop their phonics work including listening, vocabulary and speaking skills. For nursery this includes listening walks, action songs, learning rhymes and playing games such as I spy. Reception children have started phase 2 of Letters and Sounds and are trying hard to blend and segment sounds learnt so far. We are teaching children to start all their letters on the line when writing as we use the cursive style at Husthwaite school. This helps children with joining up their letters later on.

In **Maths EYFS** children will continue with lots of counting and number recognition as well as addition if appropriate. This is all done in a practical way using lots of opportunities from the environment, promoting the language and vocabulary associated with different number concepts. They will also cover work on shape, space and measure. **Year One** children's main content this half term will be addition and subtraction using the part part whole model. This includes fact families, finding a difference, missing number problems, as well as place value. They will also cover 3D shape.

In **RE** the **Year 1** children are learning – How and why do we celebrate sacred and special times? The learning involves discussion, art, music and stories. The significance of these celebrations to believers is explored focussing on story, symbol and particular celebrations.

EYFS children will learn about the story of Jesus' birth and that Advent for Christians is a time for getting ready for Jesus' coming.

PSHE – this includes children learning about internet safety and joining in our anti-bullying theme.

Homework

Reception/Nursery

We are using Evidence Me to capture children's learning and are getting much better at using this new App! Our next step is to set up Evidence Me for parents so that you can contribute to any learning your child does at home. Observations will now be sent out to parents at regular intervals.

Yr1 – In addition to reading at home, the children will receive weekly spellings to learn each Friday which will be tested the following Friday. They will now bring home a weekend diary in which to record their activities and achievements over the weekend. This could be a picture of what they have been doing with some key words or photographs to help them write their news in school on a Monday.

Reading

Once the **Reception** children are able to blend and segment simple 3 letter words using the phonics taught in school, they will bring home a reading book. They will be read with 1:1 each week. Please could you sign or initial in their reading record book when they have read to you.

In addition, reception children will continue to bring home their phonics book, with all the letter sounds learnt so far. They can then show you what they have been learning in school.

Y1 children will be read with once 1-1 and will participate in one guided reading session per week. The children will have their books changed each week after reading with a member of staff and practising their book at home.

Sharing Assembly

Please join our sharing assembly every Friday via Zoom to celebrate the children's achievements. Details of times etc will follow. As always, if there is anything you wish to discuss we are always available, so catch us at the gate.

Additional Information

Please can children bring a pair of wellies to school to use in the outdoor area. We go out in all weathers and like to get muddy playing in the new mud kitchen and water area!!! Please make sure your child brings a coat each day, the weather changes so quickly!! Their water bottles must also be named and school uniform labelled.

Our planning and preparation time will be covered by Mrs Warriner on a Wednesday afternoon. New parents will also receive an invitation to join Dojo, our class messaging system.

Many Thanks,
Mrs Jackson and Mrs O'Gorman