



Spring 1 Newsletter – Information for Parents Date: 7th January 2021 Class 1 TJ

Dear Parents/carers

Welcome back to school – we hope you all had a lovely Christmas and relaxing break and wish you all a happy new year! Thank you for all the lovely Christmas gifts and best wishes we received at the end of last year; it was very kind of you. As usual we have a busy term ahead, with another new topic. We would like to welcome our new nursery children too.

Class Routines

Although lots of you are familiar with our class routines, this is a quick recap for our new children. On arrival at 8.30am, all children find a spot to stand on in the playground. On Monday and Thursday, Mrs Warriner will take the nursery children to the Den to hang up their coats etc. All our Reception children can now independently unpack and organise themselves. Our first job is to wash our hands. Everyone then settles to an activity that's on offer, while registers are taken and the visual timetable looked at. Nursery then go off to start their activities, while Reception and Year One begin phonics. If your child is under 5 years old, they continue to receive free school milk. 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 to play in all weathers.

Our **PE** lessons are on Tuesday afternoons. On Tuesday if the weather is bad, this will take place in the hall. Children will need an indoor and outdoor PE kit eg jogging bottoms if it is cold rather than shorts.

Forest School is now restarting for Class 1 this term on Wednesday afternoons. The sessions will be held in all weathers on the school field, so please ensure that your child has suitable warm outdoor clothing, such as jogging bottoms, a sweatshirt and coat. Please have wellington boots in school as it is likely to be muddy. (We will provide waterproofs).

Last term our topic had a History focus, whereas this term our topic has a Geography focus. The title of our **topic** for this half term is '**The United Kingdom**' and '**Food Glorious Food**'. Here we shall name and locate the capital cities of the UK. We will also look at food from the different countries of the UK. Within this topic we will focus on the city of London.

In **Science** our topic is Animals. The children will learn to; identify and name a variety of common animals including, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores, describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals including pets).

Children in the **Early Years Foundation Stage** will learn about animals through different types of pets, how you care for pets, how does a vet help animals, plus what do we know about exotic pets. They will also learn about baby animals and animal life cycles. The **Role Play** area will link to our topic and will be set up as a vets!

In **English** we are continuing to focus on phonics. The Year 1 children are now starting phase 5 of letters and sounds. 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 read and write words with contractions, and understand that the apostrophe represents the omitted letter(s), as well as recapping on ing, est, er and ed endings.

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, this term, the children will focus on story telling. They will be looking at the structure of stories and thinking about adjectives to describe the different characters. The children will then plan and write their own stories.

Our texts linked to our topic will include; Katie in London, The Queen's Hat, as well as non-fiction texts.

Children in the **EYFS** will continue to work on Phase 2 and Phase 3 phonics from Letters and Sounds. Communication, Language and Literacy is one of three prime areas in the EYFS curriculum, which includes listening and attention, understanding and speaking, so this has a main focus. Our class texts for reception children includes the above, but also The Naughty Bus, and Charlie and Lola go to London. Nursery children will work on Phase 1 of Letters and Sounds, which includes listening walks, action songs, learning rhymes and playing phonics games. Reception children will focus on blending and segmenting sounds learnt so far and making 3 and 4 letter words. In writing, we are teaching children to start all their letters on the line as we use the cursive style at Husthwaite school. Nursery children need to build their finger strength and so will have lots of opportunities for mark making using fat pens, big brushes etc, as well as fun with playdough and tweezer activities.

In **Maths EYFS** children will continue with lots of counting and number recognition to 20 as well as putting the numbers in order. They will also explore one more than and one less than a given number. 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. Shape, space and measure is also investigated. **Year One** children's main content this half term will be addition and subtraction to and from 20. This includes adding by making 10, subtraction by not crossing 10, then subtraction crossing 10 by counting back. Also, they will compare number sentences using < and >, then look at place value work to 50.

In **RE** the **Year 1** children are learning – Salvation – Why does Easter matter to Christians? This unit is for the whole of the Spring Term. Among other things, part of this unit is to recognise that Incarnation and Salvation are part of a 'big story' of the Bible. Children will also tell stories of Holy Week and Easter from the Bible and recognise a link with the idea of Salvation (Jesus rescuing people).

EYFS children will learn about the main points of the Easter story. They will also explore what our senses tell us about springtime, how spring differs from the other seasons, including the idea of new life. What signs tell us that Easter is approaching?

PSHE – this includes children learning about belonging to a community, media literacy and digital resilience, money and work .

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 also 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

Reception children are 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 and can practice with you at home.

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!!! Similarly, please can nursery children also keep a spare change of clothes in their bag in case of accidents. 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. New parents will receive an invitation to join Dojo, our class messaging system.

Many Thanks,
Mrs Jackson and Mrs O'Gorman