



Summer 1 Newsletter – Information for Parents Date: 13th April 2021
Class 1 TJ

Dear Parents/carers

Welcome back everyone, we hope you had a relaxing Easter break. A huge welcome also to our new nursery children.

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 Thursdays and Fridays, Mrs Warriner will take the nursery children to the Den to hang up their coats etc. Our Reception children will 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 will continue to be 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).

This term, our new topic is **Space Explorers**. This includes learning about the lives of significant individuals such as Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake. We shall use a range of non fiction texts to study this topic. In addition we will read the following texts; **Here We Are – Oliver Jeffers, The Way Back Home – Oliver Jeffers, Bob, man on the moon – Simon Bartram and Field trip to the moon – Jeanne Willis**.

In **Science** our topic is 'Plants'. The summer term is an ideal time to study this and gives us many opportunities for growing all sorts of vegetables and flowers etc. The year 1 science curriculum requires children to 'Identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees'. As well as 'Identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees.

Children in the **Early Years Foundation Stage** will be able to sow bean seeds, courgettes, sunflowers, etc. They have already planted potatoes just before the Easter holiday! In addition they will also learn about baby animals and animal life cycles.

In **English** we are continuing to focus on phonics. The Year 1 children have already started learning 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, for the rest of this term we will focus on spelling, punctuation and grammar as the children have missed out on this. Our English work will include non-fiction texts, plus weekly spellings related to Phase 5 sounds and tricky words.

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.

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 Hushwaite school. To also use finger spaces between words, writing their name plus labels and captions. We are ultimately aiming for the children to write short sentences in meaningful contexts by the end of their reception year.

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. Nursery will also explore Phase 1 of Letters and Sounds, which includes listening walks, action songs, learning rhymes and playing phonics games.

The role play area will link to our topic and be set up as a space craft.

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 for this term is revision of previous facts, multiplication and division, number fractions, plus some work on Geometry position and direction. We will also support any children who need to revisit basic number work, including addition, subtraction and number bonds.

In **RE** the **Year 1** children are learning – Who is a Christian and what do they believe?

EYFS children will participate in these lessons but in a way that is applicable to them and their level of understanding.

PSHE – this will focus on children's emotional well-being, as well as topics not covered in the Spring Term. This will include, 'Belonging to a community, Media literacy and digital resilience, Money and work and life cycles – animals'.

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. These will be uploaded onto Google Classroom. They will also bring home a 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 as part of 'early work' when they first come into school.

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. We need to catch up with sticking new sounds in the children's phonics books. So, they may well bring some letters home for you to stick in – thank you!

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. New parents will receive an invitation to join Dojo, our class messaging system. Once again thank you for all your support.

Mrs Jackson, Mrs O'Gorman and Mrs Warriner.