**Handale Primary School**

 **Year 1 – Transition Newsletter.**

**2nd July 2018**

Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to start by saying a huge welcome to Year 1. We hope you have all had a fantastic year so far and are looking forward to the year ahead as we have lots of exciting things planned this year, which we are sure your child will thoroughly enjoy.

Each term you will receive a brief newsletter from ourselves outlining everything you need to know about upcoming events and how we believe you can help make the most of your child’s time in Year 1.

Reading:

Children must practise their reading at least three times each week. We are asking parents to please write a comment in their reading record each time and make sure both reading books and records are brought to school daily. Within the reading record, you will also find a list of phonics and high frequency words which will help your child with their decoding and reading and your child will be required to know these by the end of this school year. Reading should be an enjoyable activity for both yourself and your child, so we would like you to talk about the books with your child to allow them to understand what they are reading.

Homework:

Homework within school will be in the form of a multi choice grid. This approach to homework has shown a great success over the last school year with children loving the ability to choose and be creative. This term the homework menu will relate to our termly topic and focussed text in English (topic is animals and their habitats and Paddington Bear is our focussed text in English). The idea is that children will choose which homework they do and in which order. We also designed this so that the time pressure is less (you don’t need to do a piece each week) however we still expect the requested number of homework pieces to be done by the end of term (don’t leave it all till the end). It may be tempting to complete homework all in one go but we have asked children to pace their work to allow the teaching in topic lessons to help them. We will ask for homework books to be handed in (whether homework is completed or not) every Tuesday so we can monitor and mark them. Books will be returned on Thursdays.

Spellings:

Children will be given spellings on a Monday which will be stapled into their reading record. Each week we will be looking at them every day and children will be tested on a Friday. The spellings we will choose follow sounds they will have learnt through phonics, as well as a select couple of high frequency words (which are listed in their reading records).

Times tables:

In Year 1, children are required to learn their 2, 5 and 10 times tables. Any practise and support with this at home is hugely welcomed, as times tables and number fact knowledge will form the basis of number as they progress through school.

Topic and trips:

Our English topic this term is famous authors and we are looking a book written by Michael Bond, Paddington Bear. To keep in line with this, we are looking into taking the children on a train journey. In Science this term, we are looking at the topic ‘Animals including humans.’ As part of this topic, we plan on having a little walk into the local woods at some point, to talk about wildlife and their habitats.

PE:

Can we also remind you that PE kits need to be brought in to school and can be left on the child’s peg for the half term which saves the children forgetting it on a weekly basis. PE will take place outside if possible (weather permitting). A reminder that all jewellery should be removed on PE days, suitable clothing worn (black shorts and white t-shirt) and plimsolls/trainers for outdoor lessons.

Class Teddy bear:

Both Year 1 teachers will be looking for outstanding examples of work, exceptional manners and helpful children for Pupil of the Week each Friday. In addition to this, they will be asked to take home their class bear and accompanying book to share their adventures over the weekend. Photos, drawings and comments would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any further questions please don’t hesitate to come in and have a chat with us.

Thank you,

Miss Kendall and Miss Gale