



Handale Primary School  
West Park Avenue  
Loftus  
TS13 4RL  
Tel: 01287 640416  
Headteacher: Mrs H. Blakeley



3<sup>rd</sup> September 2019

## Year 1 Newsletter Autumn Term 2019

Dear Parent,

Welcome back to a new and exciting year!

I look forward to hearing many stories of great summer adventures and hope each of you have had a wonderful and relaxing break together. I want to take this opportunity to thank you and your children for making my first week at Handale an absolute delight! The happy, smiley and welcoming faces presented by yourselves and your children were a pleasure to see. Passionately embarking on my new journey at Handale, I am eager to get to know each of you and ask you to contact me regarding anything you wish to discuss.

I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know each of your bubbly and bright children during transition week and am extremely excited to begin our learning journey together. This year, as most of you are already aware, I am the only Year 1 teacher and am delighted to be joined by Mrs Darby as our full-time teaching assistant. Access to both Year 1 classrooms has provided an outstanding opportunity to ensure pupils learn in the best possible way, through a linked learning room. In order to tailor learning to the individual needs and preferences of your children, I have created lots of areas for them to explore, consolidate and apply learning independently. All areas, including writing, phonics and investigation, have established challenges that change in accordance to our English, Maths and Creative Curriculum activities. Autumn term has lots to offer including the theme of the Jungle and our friendly mammal, Gerald the Giraffe. If you would like to sneak a peek at our jungle linked learning room, you are more than welcome to do so when dropping off or collecting your child from school. You might even spot a monkey or two!

I recognise that Year 1 presents new changes for your child and is an extremely important milestone in their learning journey. However, I can assure you that through fun and engaging learning experiences and our combined support, they will make amazing progress!

### Autumn Term Topics

#### Can Giraffes Dance?

Topic work this term will focus on our WOW question: 'Can Giraffes Dance?'. Our work will centre around our Geography and Science theme; learning all about different groups of animals and where they live. This theme has influenced the choice of our famous author 'Giles Andreae' who wrote the popular children's book 'Giraffes Can't Dance'. We will use this literature to investigate the difference between the African Savannah and the Congo Rainforest. Together we will be using Venn diagrams and pictograms to record the classification of different types of animals.





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In DT, we will explore the different cuisines featured throughout our book of the term and perform our own taste tests, before creating jungle recipes. Our RE topic work this term will look at stories and we will be making comparisons between different religious beliefs. This work will also link with PHSE, where we will consider how each individual is unique and what their own special quality is.

In PE this term, the children will perform dance on a Monday afternoon and this session will last for 1 hour. We will also be completing an hour of PE on a Wednesday afternoon, focusing on team skills through games. Please make sure children have a plain white top, plain black shorts and appropriate PE shoes in school every Monday and Wednesday.

### **Reading at home and in school**

Separate information will be sent out to give you information about this term's 'Read for the Stars'. It is essential that pupils read at home to an adult at least three times a week and have their reading record signed accordingly. Children will also read weekly to adults in school, both in group sessions and individually. Children change their books weekly and they also have the opportunity to bring home a library book. We don't expect your child to read a book a night, a couple of pages is acceptable and this way your child won't get bored. Last year's reading parties were a huge success and we will be doing the same thing this term so get those weekly reads in!

### **Homework**

Homework in the Autumn Term will involve children learning their spellings, in preparation for their weekly test on a Friday morning, and completing their reading practice three times per week. In addition to this, pupils will receive a piece of Maths homework weekly. We are conscious that we do not wish to overburden our pupils but know that many of you enjoy completing extra activities with your children and we would encourage you to continue to do so – please feel free to carry out your own research about your child's topic. Something like a piece of artwork or a game is always great to share with the class and can add valuable contributions to our curriculum.

If you have any questions, please feel free to come into school and discuss them. Here's to a wonderful first term!

Thank you,

Miss Keenan

