



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



4<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## Year 1 Newsletter Autumn Term 2020

Dear Parent,

Welcome back!

I hope that you have had a fantastic summer break and your children are looking forward to coming back to school. For some of you, it has been a long time since your child was back in school and I want to reassure you that school have everything in place ready to welcome all of our children back. I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know some children before we broke up and it was a pleasure to see so many happy, smiley faces, I am equally looking forward to meeting the new faces. Year 1 is an extremely important year in your child's education, but I can assure you that they will make amazing progress while having lots of fun along the way. Autumn Term has lots to offer and I am more than certain that your child will enjoy learning lots of exciting new things. This year, as you are already aware, I am the only Year 1 teacher and I am joined by Mrs Darby who is working full time as our teaching assistant. Both Year 1 classrooms will be used this year to ensure that pupils learn in the best possible way and get the experiences needed to ensure this will happen. One classroom will be used as the teaching classroom and the other classroom is set up as a linked learning room. In the linked learning room, I have created lots of areas for your children to consolidate their learning and work independently on English, Maths and Creative Curriculum activities linked to our weekly learning.

### Autumn Term Theme

#### Our School and Our Local Environment

Topic work this half term will focus on our Geography theme: 'Our School and Our Local Environment'. Our Geography theme will centre on the children learning about the world, starting with their immediate environment. We will explore our school environment using first-hand observation using aerial view photographs and simple street map so we can create maps of our own. We will then extend learning opportunities beyond the school gate and hopefully get to explore the local area of Loftus. In English we will be looking at the story 'What the Ladybird Heard' which is a popular children's book written by the famous Author Julia Donaldson. Our science work will include looking at: 'Animals including Humans' which we will look closely at naming and classifying common animals and investigate what animals eat. We will also name parts of the human body and have fun testing out our senses.





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Our Computing work will focus on recognising common uses of information technology beyond school and we will explore how to use technology safely and respectfully, keeping personal information private. Our RE topic work this term will look Christianity. We will begin to ask questions and find out about different celebrations and festivals including 'Harvest'.

PE will be every Monday afternoon and Thursday afternoon and this will alternate between Outdoor Adventurous Activities (OAA) and Dance. Please make sure children have a white top, black shorts and appropriate PE shoes in school in their PE bag provided by school every Monday and we will send it home for washing on a Friday. Black tracksuit bottoms can also be worn during winter.

### 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 will change their books every Monday. 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 three weekly reads in!

### School Trips

Due to recent events, we don't have an Autumn Term trip planned currently but I do aim to take the children out into the local area every few weeks to further our learning in school. More information will be sent out to you regarding this. Library visits will also take place at some point this term, again, more information will be sent out regarding this.

### 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 great first term!

Thank you,

Miss Kentfield

