**Year 1 Newsletter**

**Spring Term 2021**

Dear Parent,

We have not had the start to Spring Term we hoped for however, I will ensure you that we will end the term feeling much more positive. I am really looking forward to having the Year 1 children back at school so I can continue teaching them and watching them reach their full potential. It is not going to be easy and we have a lot of catching up to do but I can assure you, I will put 100% into catching children up and making sure that they settle back into school. Above all, I want children to be happy coming back to school. I know lots of children will be feeling nervous about returning and I will ensure the children have lots of opportunities in school to spend quality time with their friends socialising and communicating – something they have missed out on over the last two months. I just want to take this opportunity to thank you parents for your continued support over the last two months, it has not been easy, and I appreciate the effort you have all put in to home learning. We will be returning to our daily timetable and interventions will be put in place across the school day to revisit and teach any gaps in children’s learning.

We have just over a full term left in Year 1 and I can assure you it is going to be extremely busy and very successful. I am looking forward to watching your children shine throughout while I prepare them for the next step in their education.

**Spring Term Curriculum**

To ensure that we are fully equipped for Year 2 it is important that we take this time to ensure that the children can access the broad and balanced curriculum so to do this our primary focus will be on Phonics and Reading, Writing and Maths. I will ensure that we will have learning tasks that are engaging but most importantly accessible for all and that they feel successful in what they do. Our Linked Learning Room will be used to apply skills taught so far and provide the children with activities that they can challenge themselves with.

During our PSHE time, we will have lots of opportunities to engage in discussion and will reflect daily on our feelings and emotions. Our PE sessions will be based around ‘fitness fun’ and also to work on ball skills to support the movement of balance and co-ordination. Our History theme this half term is ‘Great Explorers’ so we will focus and discuss Captain Cook’s adventures.

Our English genre this half term is Non-Fiction so we will focus on Instructional writing which is perfect as our Design and Technology theme is ‘Food preparation and Vegetables’ so we will use food as a hook for writing instructions. We will also use our History theme to write a non-chronological about Captain Cook.

Our Science theme is seasonal changes which we have already started, during our home learning sessions. As part of this theme, we will observe the changes throughout Spring and Summer looking at weather and making sure we know the seasons we have. Our RE theme is focused on Christianity, looking at why Christians celebrate Easter.

**Reading at home and in school**

We have updated our reading books over the last month and all books are now from Big Cat Collins. The books link closely with our Reading Curriculum and Phonics Programme ‘Letters and Sounds’. On Tuesday, your children will come home with a brand-new reading book. More information about the colour bands and reading progression will be sent to you on Marvellous Me. Please can I ask that you encourage children to take care of the books at home.

It is essential that pupils read at home to an adult at least three times a week and have their reading record signed accordingly. Please check Marvellous Me for updates as I am currently working on a way to record home reading on there. Children will also read weekly to adults in school, both in group sessions and individually. Children will change their books every Monday. We do not expect your child to read a book a night, a couple of pages is acceptable and this way your child will not get bored. Our Read for the Stars programme will resume in the Summer Term.

**Homework**

Homework in the Spring 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 pieces of work which will further support their Phonics and Maths understanding. 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 contact me and we can discuss them. Here’s to a great end to our Spring term!

Thank you,

Mrs Kentfield-Howe