6th January 2021

**Year 1 Newsletter**

**Spring Term 2021**

Dear Parent,

I would like to start by wishing you a happy new year!

I hope that you have had a fantastic Christmas break and your children are looking forward to coming back to school. Last term was a huge success for our Year 1 pupils. Every day, they came into school with a smile on their face ready to learn and succeed. I am extremely proud of the progress they have all made so far and I am certain that they will continue to strive to be the best that they can be. Just like Autumn Term, 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 gain confidence when working independently on English, Maths and Creative Curriculum activities linked to our weekly learning.

**Spring Term Curriculum**

Topic work this half term will focus on our Geography theme: ‘Wonderful Weather’ Our work will centre on the children, learning about the weather in the UK and we will learn to recognise weather symbols. The children will have fun recording themselves delivering the weather forecast. We will also discover where the North and South Poles are located and what we could find there. In English we will be looking at ‘Traditional Tales’ focusing on extending what we know that a story has 3 parts, the beginning, the middle and the ending building up to writing 5 parts to a story adding in the build-up and a resolution. Our science work will include looking at: ‘Materials’ this will link in perfectly to our English theme as we will make different criteria for the characters in the stories using DT skills to design and evaluate what has been made.

Our RE topic work this term will look at how our actions speak louder than words which will be supported by our PSHE theme focusing on identity, society, and ourselves.

PE will continue to be every Monday and Thursday afternoons, and this will alternate between ball skills including net games and dance. Please make sure children have a white top, black shorts and appropriate PE shoes in school every week. PE kits must be brought to school on a Monday and they will be sent home on a Thursday evening. Black tracksuit bottoms can also be worn during winter.

**Reading at home and in school**

Separate information has been sent out to give you information about this terms ‘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 terms reading party was 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 do not have a Spring Term trip planned currently but I do aim to take the children out into the local area to further our learning in school. 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 Spring term!

Thank you,

Mrs Kentfield-Howe