



Birchwood Avenue Primary School

Headteacher: Miss Hall

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Year 1 Spring Newsletter

A very warm welcome to all our parents and carers of Year 1 children. We are really looking forward to having an exciting spring term with your children. Our Birchwood Superpower of the first half term will be '**Empathy**' where children will begin to understand the importance of showing empathy towards one another and being considerate of each other's feelings. We feel as a school that our values underpin our learning behaviour, and this is reflected in our work.

Year One team

Class Teacher – Miss Khan

TA - Miss Melucci

PE

Our **PE days** this term are **Monday and Thursday**. It would be helpful if all PE kits are sent to school at the beginning of each week. It is advised that children wear trainers for PE, which are much more supportive than plimsolls. In PE this term, the children will be developing their ball skills using both hands and feet, alongside gymnastics, in which they will be exploring the dynamics of movement through gestures and travelling.



Phonics and English

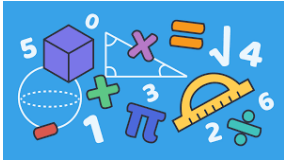


In phonics, the children will work in small groups each day with an adult. Children will learn new sounds, letter formation, and learn how to blend sounds together in order to read and spell words. They will build on this by learning how to write sentences using the correct punctuation. Children should be able to use their phonic knowledge to decode words and read accurately. They will develop their reading by using the sounds they learn to read books fluently and with more

confidence. A Year 1 reader should also be able to talk about the events in books that they read.

In English, they use the skills that they develop in Phonics and apply them in their reading and spelling. The curriculum is text-led and the children will read and explore a wide range of exciting books such as 'A Mouse called Julian' and 'Beegu'. A Year One writer should be able to compose sentences, use capital letters and full stops, and use joining words such as *and*. They should also be able to use spelling rules, for example, adding -ing or -ed to words.

Maths



The focus for maths this term will be geometry, measure and number. By the end of Year 1, children should be able to read and write numbers to 100 and count in jumps of 2, 5 and 10. They will also be introduced to the concepts of multiplication, division and fractions. Additionally, they will develop their understanding of length, weight, capacity and time.

Science



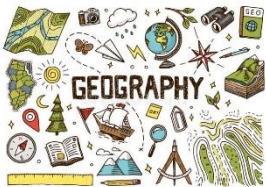
This term the children will be learning about amazing animals. Children will learn to identify and name a range of common animals, exploring their key features, body parts, diets and how they can be grouped. They will also learn about the human body, including naming and labelling body parts, investigating the five senses, and understanding how different parts of the body help us to sense the world around us. In the second half of the term, the children will learn about spring and consider the changes that happen throughout the seasons, including thinking about the weather and hibernation.

History



In history this term, the children will be learning about toys and how they have changed. Children will discuss and ask questions about toys from the past, using appropriate language to talk about time. They will compare toys from the past and present, sequence toys from different periods, and explore how toys have changed over time, including comparing modern teddy bears with those from 100 years ago.

Geography



This term in geography, the children will be exploring the weather in the UK.

Children learn to identify and locate the four UK countries, recognise their own country and describe locations using basic compass directions. They also measure different types of weather, using symbols used in weather forecasts, describe seasonal changes and suggest appropriate clothing and activities for each season.

PSHE



We follow the Jigsaw scheme for our PSHE. This term, the children will be focusing on *Dreams and Goals* and *Healthy Me*. Children will be considering ways to stay motivated when things get challenging, having a positive attitude and helping others to achieve their goals. They will also be learning about healthy diets, thinking about making healthy choices and keeping active.

Art and Design

In Art and Design the children will be making paper-based 3D art forms using techniques such as rolling, folding and scrunching paper.

Design Technology



Children will explore a range of fabrics, describe their look and feel, and learn basic sewing skills such as threading a needle and making simple, even stitches. They will design and create their own stitched patterns, choosing colours and materials thoughtfully, explaining their ideas, and evaluating their own and others' work.

RE

During the first half term the children will be investigating the roles of God through stories and sacred texts, children look at the things God does and what this means to different people. Then during the second half of the term the children will be building on their understanding of creation stories, children explore beliefs about the relationship between humans and nature.



Computing

Children will explore using individual commands, both with other learners and as part of a computer program. They will identify what each floor robot command does and use that knowledge to start predicting the outcome of programs. The unit is paced to ensure time is spent on all aspects of programming and builds knowledge in a structured manner. Learners are also introduced to the early stages of program design through the introduction of algorithms.

Music

Children will explore core musical skills, understanding 'phrase' and using one breath per phrase. They will look at sound quality (timbre) and recognise song melodies. They will identify music in stories, combining and adding instrument sounds to illustrate a story.

Homework

The children will bring home a phonics reading book each week. This will be linked to the text they are reading in their phonics group. **It is important to read with your children for up to 15 minutes a day. The reading record needs to be signed by an adult and brought into school every day.** This will help them to develop a love of reading which they will carry with them throughout their lives.

Each Friday, children will be set a maths task to consolidate their maths learning in class. This will be sent home in a homework book and should be returned to school, completed, in their reading bag by Wednesday of the following week.

Alongside this will be phonics sounds for the children to practise; these will also go home on Fridays. Also on Fridays, some words from our Year 1 spelling list will come home for your child to practise. These are words that they should be able to spell by the end of the year and be able to use correctly in sentences. Children will be able to log on to Times Table Rock Stars to begin to practice counting in 2s and 10s.

If you have any questions or queries, we are always happy to help.

With best wishes,

Miss Khan and Miss Melucci