



25<sup>th</sup> September 2023

### Year 1 Autumn Topic Letter

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our topic in the Autumn term is called "Awesome Authors" and we will be focusing on the wonderful work of Eric Carle and Julia Donaldson. We have many exciting theme activities planned - see attached grid.

#### PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education)

This term we will be focusing heavily on the children's wellbeing, talking about feelings and how to manage them, and sharing about what is important to them such as their family, home and friends. We will support the children as they adjust to the routines and expectations of school and revisit our school rules and values.

#### English

##### Reading

We will be exploring a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts which will include 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar, The Mixed Up Chameleon, The Gruffalo's Child and Room on the Broom. We will also read books about healthy eating, exercise, seasons, our senses, Christianity, and a range of artists. Our focuses will include reading tricky words, new vocabulary and longer sentences. We will be discussing pictures, characters and settings and learning to sequence stories.

We will have a daily phonics session where we will be revisiting phase 3 sounds and tricky words. We will be practicing recognising sounds, blending them together to read new words, and learning to write some simple words. We use Floppy's phonics scheme and have lots of super books in school and online resources to use.

Your child will read at least once a week with an adult. This may be individually or as a whole class. Whole class reading is when the skills of reading are explicitly taught through exciting texts. ***We will be encouraging the children to change their own reading books once they have read at home, they will know which colour-banded books to select from, this is indicated by the balloon label on the front cover of their reading record.*** We will be sending home Floppy's Phonics activity sheets in a green file, the sheets will have been completed within our phonics lessons. ***Please use them to practise the sounds of the week. Please listen to your child read at home regularly. 10 minutes daily really improves reading fluency. Please keep reading books and diaries in the waterproof wallet provided.***

##### Writing

As well as everyday mark making, the children will be taught to write in sentences, thinking about grammar and punctuation. We will be focusing on oral storytelling using props and puppets as a stimulus. The children will learn how to sequence stories and verbally construct 5 sentence stories using key storytelling vocabulary e.g Once upon a time, After that, Finally, Happily Ever After.

##### Kinetic letters

This is the handwriting scheme which was introduced to the children in Reception. The children will continue to develop their core muscle strength alongside handwriting patterns. There will be a 15 minute daily teaching session in each classroom.





## Mathematics

We teach the children Maths using a Mastery approach which allows the children to deepen their understanding of mathematical concepts, following the framework: concrete, pictorial and abstract.

- The children will be continuing to learn to recognise and record numbers to 100.
- To be able to count forwards and backwards from any given number.
- Work will continue on addition and subtraction using a range of numbers and practical resources to aid visualisation of the concepts.
- They will learn number facts for all numbers up to 10 and then 20. There is an expectation that they will learn these "off by heart" and be able to recite them in any order.
- There will be a focus on the use of a range of vocabulary linked to addition and subtraction, in particular, finding the difference between numbers.
- They will continue to recognise and name common 2D and 3D shapes

## Science

- The children will be learning about the human body, labeling body parts (arm, leg, head, elbow etc). We will explore using the 5 senses and learn about the key features of animals.
- Each season they will be looking at seasonal change, but children will be taught to identify key features of the seasons.

## Art and Design and Technology

We will be using our Amazing authors books to inspire our DT and Art this term. The children will be exploring colour mixing and producing paintings, drawings and collages. They will be making puppets and exploring joining and fixing, pivots and sliders.

## History and Geography

This term will be focusing on Geography. The children will be looking at maps and the local area and drawing a bird's eye view of the classroom. They will think about the layout of their home and school and draw simple maps with a key.

## PE

We will be following our new PE scheme - Cambridge PE - which covers Games, Gymnastics and Dance. This term we will follow the Games unit. The children will also be taking part in PE outside where they will develop large ball skills. The children will be working on coordination in dance, using apparatus like streamers to create a series of movements. **Please make sure your child has warm clothes and check which day to send them into school wearing PE kit. The days alternate weekly from Mon/Tues, and Mon/Thurs.**

## Music

During our music sessions children will learn to identify the beat in different pieces of music and join in at faster and slower speeds, identify the rhythm of words, recall and perform rhythms to a given beat and accompany a song by playing the beat or rhythm.





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## **R.E.**

We will be looking at what places are important to Christians and why:

- Explain why the Bible is a holy book for Christians and why Christians go to church and follow some traditions.
- Explain the meaning behind stories read and the lessons that the Bible teaches Christians.
- Recall Bible stories.
- Reflect on their feelings about particular Bible stories.
- Prove their learning in different ways.
- Towards Christmas we will be reflecting on the Christmas story and its importance to the Christian faith.

## **Homework**

We encourage children to read to you at home as often as possible as this allows them the opportunity to practice all the new skills they have learnt at school. We will send home a topic based homework and occasionally extra spellings, phonics or Maths activities.

**Phonics File:** - these contain Floppy's phonics activity sheets which should be used to practise sounds that have been taught each week.

## **Useful websites**

Phonics – [www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk)  
[www.oxfordowl.co.uk/](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/)

Maths – [www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/maths-at-home/](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/advice-for-parents/maths-at-home/)

We thank you in advance for your support this year.

Mrs Brown  
Year 1 Lead

