

Dear Parents/carers of Year 1,

January 2021

As this is far from a normal start to a term we would like to start this newsletter by saying "Well done!" for coping with the rather stop/start nature of the last few days. To see how well you are all engaging with your school learning, either in class or from home is fantastic. Thank you for your patience as we discover how Google Classroom can work for us, creating work that is meaningful and engaging .....and easy to turn in! We will get there. We can't tell you how much we look forward to 11.15am every day with the chance to catch up with everyone at home. Keep it up! Let us know how you are getting on using the Private Comment box and we will stay in touch.

This newsletter will keep you up to date with the learning topics for this half term so you know what kind of learning is coming your way!

### **Phonics**

We are continuing with Phase 5 in phonics. This is a phase that introduces lots of alternative spellings for phonemes we already know (including split digraphs eg a\_e as in plate). We will also be revising earlier phases as necessary.

### **Reading**

The Bug Club scheme will carry on with us refreshing the book selections as they are read by you and disappear from your "in box". Fluent reading is the key to EVERYTHING so please make this a daily pleasure!

### **Literacy**

We will be studying the text "One Day on Our Blue Planet" by Ella Bailey. This is a charming book about a young lion cub learning some life lessons in the savannah. We will produce both factual writing and story writing with this text.

### **Spellings**

6 spellings a week to practise and learn to use in sentences. They will either be "tricky" spellings that do not follow the rules so need to be learned by sight, or will follow a particular spelling rule. Quiz in school on a Friday for these.

### **Numeracy**

We are continuing our work on adding and subtraction, now using numbers up to 20. We will use our knowledge of bonds to 10 to help us add and subtract these larger numbers. Later in the half term we will look at numbers up to 50.

### **Geography**

The children will be learning about the UK, some key facts about both natural and human made features. They will also find out about continents and do some comparing work between the UK and Africa, where our literacy text is set.

### **Science**

Our Science topic is Animals, including Humans. This will build on last term's work about different groups of animals (mammals, birds etc).

### **Art and DT**

We will be painting and cutting, using watercolour, stencils and silhouettes.

## R.E.

The children will be studying The Family, thinking about Jesus growing up.

### Children learning remotely:

- P.E. Mrs Dyer will be linking up with the children on Tuesday afternoons and will notify you of the meeting code as necessary. Please also check out the PE topic area in Google Classroom as the Premier Education videos are wonderful and good fun for EVERYONE (not as exhausting as Joe Wicks!).
- PLEASE USE Bug Club to do your home reading. Any queries about logging on, new books etc let us know. It is vital that the children are reading every day at a level that suits their phonic knowledge. We are in Phase 5 phonics now, learning how sounds can be written in different ways and the children need all the practise they can get to become confident and fluent. We will top up the books as you read them and they "disappear" from your list. Let us know if you need more allocated.
- 11.15am will be our regular Live Lesson time and the code to join will be on the day's Google Classroom entry. Each day's lesson will be relevant to that week's learning and we will try to vary the subjects covered.
- We are taking a register of who is at the Live Lesson and who is turning in work so let us know if there is a tech problem or we won't be seeing you. If we don't see or hear from you for a day or two, someone from school will ring to catch up and make sure everything is ok.

### Children learning in school:

- P.E. will continue on the same days, Tuesday and Fridays. PE will be outdoors if possible so please make sure the kit is weather appropriate (tracky bottoms if it is cold for example).
- The children have a reading book at their phonic level in class which they are reading independently and with an adult once or twice a week. They will not be bringing a book home so PLEASE USE Bug Club to do your home reading. Any queries about logging on, new books etc let us know.
- As there is no school diary communication channel at the moment we will use parentmail if we need to let you know about anything that has happened over the day eg bump or fall.
- If there is any change to pick up arrangements let the office know and they will pass on the message.

Sorry there are no fancy colours and pictures in the newsletter, we had a lot to say and wanted to keep it to two pages! All the very best to you and yours.

Mrs Ridall and Ms Mudd