

September 2017

Dear Parents/ Carers

Welcome to Year 1!

The children have made a super start to the new school year and are quickly getting used to the structure and routines in Year 1.

Topic Work: Our first topic this year in KS1 is ‘Why are we called the United Kingdom?’ We have many exciting activities planned finding out about the 4 countries, their capital cities and much more. Art and DT will be taught through our topic work and will involve working with textiles. In Science, we will be investigating everyday materials, looking at their properties and how they are used. In Year 1, we use a book as a focus to teach all of the reading and writing objectives through. The first book we will be using is ‘The Detective Dog’ by Julia Donaldson. We are sure the children will thoroughly enjoy this book and produce work to be really proud of. In RE, we will be asking why Jesus is special to Christians and then introduce the children to Hinduism. It would be great if the children could bring in a photo of someone who is special to them. In addition to all our topic work, we have daily Phonics, Maths and Guided Reading sessions. Each child reads in a group situation with the teacher at least once a week.

Home Reading: In the classroom there is a Home Readers box. Please will you make sure your child has their school reading book and record book each morning so that they can place it in the box to be checked and changed if necessary. We will of course remind the children to do this as well. We would encourage you to read and discuss the books with your child every night for 5-10 minutes as this helps them consolidate their learning. The children who have regular reading time at home make significantly more progress than those who don’t so we really ask for your support with this.

Maths: The children will continue to learn their Key Maths Facts and so the more you can practise the tricky ones the better. 5 minutes spent counting or practising adding numbers to 10 on the way to school or in the bath will really make a difference!

PE: We usually have PE on Mondays and Fridays but ask for PE kits to be left in school all week. The kits are sent home each Friday so that they can be washed over the weekend. Please ensure that every item of their PE kit is **labelled** (including socks and pumps) and we prefer children not to wear earrings to school on the days when they have PE. For safety reasons, Children are not allowed to join in PE lessons whilst wearing earrings and we are not permitted to help them take the earrings out.

Homework: Homework is currently given out on a Tuesday and requested back in for the following Tuesday. It may consist of words to practise reading, a Maths challenge, or a piece of work linked to our topic or book. On a Friday spellings will be given out to practise and children will be tested on these spellings the following Friday. Spelling books will be sent home weekly so you can see exactly how your child has got on.

Meet the teacher: On Thursday 7th September at 3:10pm, we will be holding a 15-minute meet-the-teacher session where we will discuss class routines and answer any questions you may have.

Other: Please could we have any empty egg boxes that you may be about to throw out. The more the better!!

If at any point in the year you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to see either of us at the end of the school day.

Kind regards,

Mrs Long and Mrs Bell, Year 1 Class Teachers