



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We hope that you have all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year with your families. If you have any questions or concerns, no matter how small, then please talk one of the team and we will do all that we can to help.

~The Year 1 Team

## Reading

Reading is so important and we really appreciate your support in listening to your child read every day to help them to become confident, fluent and expressive readers.

Phonics - Little Wandle Letters and Sounds is our phonics scheme. When children bring home a phonics reading book it will be a book which they have already read in class three times. Therefore, they should be confident in reading the words with minimal sounding out necessary. The 'teaching' of reading will be done in school and reading at home should be a celebration of this. Please do not think the books are 'too easy'.

Reading for Pleasure Book— Children will also choose a reading for pleasure book to share at home. This is a book for you and your child to read together. They are not expected to read this themselves. It is to promote the love of reading. Please remember to return your child's school reading for pleasure book on a Wednesday to exchange for a new one.

## Golden ticket

This half term the children will be given golden tickets for friendship. In Year 1, this includes being a good friend to their peers and helping them, as well as being a good friend when playing together. One child with the most golden tickets at the end of the half term from each class will be awarded with a prize.

## Library Day

Library Day is Friday for Maple and Monday for Chestnut. Please ensure that your child has their library book in their bag.

## PE

PE day is on a Wednesday for Maple and a Thursday for Chestnut. Please can children come to school with their PE kit on for that day. If your child has long hair, please ensure it is tied back, thank you.

## Forest School

The children really look forward to Forest School sessions. They will need a waterproof coat and waterproof trousers or puddle suit. Forest School sessions this half term are during the last week of the half term.

## Purple Mash

The school are subscribed to an online program called Purple Mash. This subscription software is paid for by school and each pupil has their own login with username and password. This can be used at home, as well as in school. We use Purple Mash software for our computing lessons. Each term, we will also set work in the 2Do section. This will be linked to any of our subjects including maths, English, art, science etc. If your child has access to the internet at home, they may want to do some of the tasks set. If they don't, they will have chance during the school day during continuous provision.

## Dates for the diary

- January 8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> – Cricket (please wear PE kit on these days)
- January 12<sup>th</sup> – Phunky Foods (Chestnut)
- January 13<sup>th</sup> – Phunky Foods (Maple)
- February 6<sup>th</sup> – NSPCC Number Day
- February 10<sup>th</sup> – Safer Internet Day
- February 13<sup>th</sup> – PTA Love Yourself Day

## Reminders

- As part of our healthy school policy please only send water in water bottles
- Please ensure that all clothing is labelled, including hats and gloves
- Earrings must not be worn for school
- Long hair must be tied up
- Wellies should be brought back to school and left on the racks in the outdoor area



## This is what we will be learning this half term...

### Maths

This term, children will master numbers up to 20 by counting to 20, drawing numbers, and using blocks. They will then move on to adding and subtracting within 20 using the '+', '-', and '=' signs.

Highlights:

- Counting: Forwards and backwards to 20 from any number.
- Representing: Using objects and number lines to show values.
- Calculating: Adding by "counting on" and subtracting, including using zero.

### English

We are looking at two excellent texts this half term – Beegu and Leo and the Octopus.

For the book Beegu – children will respond to a "local alien sighting" by describing the visitor and writing letters of advice. As they read Beegu, they will analyse the character's emotions and write in-role as her parents during their reunion. Finally, they will create alien sock puppets, write reports on them, and compose an original narrative following the story's structure.

Leo and the Octopus - Over several weeks, the children will explore empathy, inclusion, and autism awareness through a letter from Leo the octopus. They will develop grammar and research skills to produce a fact file brochure for an aquarium.

### Science

Bodies – This half term the children will be learning to identify and name body parts and conducting practical activities with the senses to spot patterns and answer questions.

### Art

In this unit children learn about primary and secondary colours, colour mixing techniques, and applying these skills in painting and printing.

### Computing

This half term we are looking at Coding. This unit introduces children to coding using the block coding tool, 2Code. Children will explore simple instructions and relate this to code blocks. By the end of this unit, children will be able to make a simple program.

### History

This term we will be looking at old toys. We'll be sequencing toys on a time line, investigating artefacts from the past, identifying how teddy bears have changed and what toys may be like in the future.

### Music

In this unit, pupils will learn about the inter-related dimensions of music, explore dynamics, timbre, tempo and pitch through the topic of dinosaurs.

### PHSE

Our topic this half term is Dreams and Goals – the pupils will explore their aspirations, how to achieve goals and understanding the emotions that go with this.

### PE

This half term pupils will explore and develop basic gymnastic actions on the floor and using low apparatus. This includes the basic skills of jumping, rolling, balancing and travelling.

### RE

This half term we will look at Buddhism and the story of prince Siddhartha Gautama who came to be known as the Buddha – founder of Buddhism.