



Autumn 1 Half Term Information for Parents Year 1

Happy children aiming high

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 1! It has been lovely getting to know the children and they seem to be settling well in to their new environment and getting to grips with the changes to routines. This is as much thanks to you as it is to the organisation on our part. I appreciate how swiftly morning handovers have been and look forward to us working together to ensure all children continue to be happy and thrive in Year 1.

Our whole school theme for the Autumn term is '**Aspirations**'. Links will be made across the curriculum to the importance of having aspirations, big or small, and how we can foster the necessary learning behaviours, such as resilience, in order to achieve all we set our minds to.

The following information is intended to give you some insight to the work the children will be doing this half term. I hope you find it useful.

English: Phonics, reading and spelling are the main focus for us this half term.

Alongside RWI phonics sessions, in which children will be grouped according to their stage of phonic knowledge, children will be provided with a variety of reading and writing opportunities, many of which will be cross curricular and link back to our overarching theme. We will read the traditional tale of Puss in Boots, highlighting his aspirations for himself and his master and discuss rights and wrongs of his actions and choices. We will share stories with autumnal settings and in history lessons, information texts about Florence Nightingale.

Maths: Using White Rose Maths Hub as a spine to our learning we will initially focus on Number/Place Value within ten before moving on to Addition. All sessions follow an aspirational, mastery approach to learning with mistake making and problem solving an integral part of the learning. Children will develop their skills and understanding through a variety of activities using real objects (concrete), images (pictorial) and symbols (abstract).

Science: Seasons – Children will learn about the key characteristics of the four seasons, with a particular focus on Autumn. We will observe and discuss the changes in the environment as they happen, including the weather, temperature, day length and colours in nature. Children will begin to understand the cyclical nature of the seasons – making links to days of the week/months of the year.

History: Children will learn about Florence Nightingale and the positive contributions which she made to the world of nursing. We will explore her character traits (including: determined, resilient, brave, hardworking) and how these alongside her aspirations to improve the quality of nursing care helped her to achieve all that she did. Children will compare likely hospital patient experiences from Scutari 1854 to that of modern day.

Geography: In order for children to begin to understand New Hartley's place in the world, we will learn about the UK, naming and locating the four countries and their capitals. We will label maps and mark on Northumberland, including New Hartley Village. We will discuss reasons why people move/relocate, making links to aspirations (work/quality of life).

Children will learn what is meant by physical and human features in geography. We will look at aerial photographs of New Hartley and the north east coast line to identify key physical and human features including places that they are familiar with such as NHFS, Seaton Delaval Hall, Arrighi's ice cream shop, using appropriate directional and positional vocabulary.

Computing: E-safety – Before sharing children's network and School360 logins, we will discuss the importance of staying safe online and through the use of 'Zip it, Block it, Flag it'. Please ask your child about this to check their understanding.

Using programmable toys and online programs such as Code-a-pillar and/or Code Safari, children will learn how to predict, code and debug simple programs. We will discuss why it is important to understand how these games/toys work, making links to how technology is used in a variety of occupations doctors, dentists, artists, game designers and so on. Children will also learn about the benefits of using technology and online resources safely to further develop skills, including games, to improve mental recall of maths facts or hand eye coordination.

Art: This half term children will take inspiration from the work of Mondrian, learning what is meant by 'abstract' in the context of artwork. They will use a range of media including pencils, pens, crayons, paint and collage to create their own version of Mondrian's 'Composition with Yellow, Blue and Red'. It is intended that these artworks will become part of a classroom display.

PE: Our PE days will be Monday and Wednesday this half term and will focus on fundamental movement and coordination. One session each week will be led by Newcastle United Foundation.

PSHE: Children will learn about contributing to life in the classroom, constructing and following rules, developing awareness of needs of people and other living things, belonging to communities and groups. These themes will be covered through story times, circle times, assemblies and class discussion. These will include incidental learning opportunities that arise as well as planned sessions.

Music: Music sessions this half term will be taught on Thursday afternoons by Miss Flora Smith, our singing teacher. Children will learn to use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes.

RE: We follow the SACRE syllabus and this half term we will start by looking at Christian lifestyles and communities before moving on to festivals (Harvest).

Homework: In KSI children will have regular reading books. Please ensure reading books are in school every day and kept in the book bags provided by school last year. Weekly spelling rules will be taught and lists of words applying these rules will be provided to practice at home too. We do not 'test' these as a list of words, instead children are asked to label pictures or complete missing word activities to show they can apply the spellings in their work.

On occasion, where appropriate children will be given activities or tasks to enhance their understanding of a concept or to develop skills taught in English or Maths. In addition to this children will sometimes be asked to consider questions or to find out about topic related content. This topic based homework can be completed in a child's preferred format. This could include pictures, writing, artwork or use of ICT and can be completed with adult support. Whilst these activities are not compulsory, they will certainly enhance your child's understanding of the topic/skill being covered.

How can you help?

- Ensure your child is in school on time and ready to learn. This includes having all the equipment they need for the day, such as reading book and reading record and wearing their PE kit on Mondays and Wednesdays.
- Share your child's school reading book with them, discussing characters, events and opinions. This is best done often and in short bursts. Please record a simple signature and page number should your child read to you at home. Books and records should be available in school every day.
- Practising common exception words at home will greatly consolidate your child's learning and understanding. Can your child read and spell the words for Year 1? Copies of these will be sent home this half term.
- Practise mental maths including counting in 2s, 5s and 10s and number bonds to 10. Discuss money, time and measures with real examples whenever the opportunity arises.
- Encourage your child to tell you what they have been learning about at school and where possible, extend their learning at home, through books, outings, discussions and the internet – reinforcing the importance of online safety at home as well as at school. Ask your child about 'Zip it – Block it – Flag it'.

If you have any queries please remember I am available via email/app or for appointments after school and as class teacher, all queries should be directed to myself in the first instance.

Thank you for your support
Mrs Banks