



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:

Alongside Read Write Inc sessions, in which children are 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 as well as information texts about everyday materials in science and Florence Nightingale in history. Children will learn the poem 'The Lady with the Lamp' and we will share autumn themed poems too. All writing will be recorded in one book this year, allowing us to make cross curricular links more explicit.

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 and Subtraction. All sessions follow an aspirational, mastery approach to learning with mistake making and problem solving an integral part of the learning. Children will work in mixed ability groups to 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.

Materials Children will be given a variety of materials in their natural form to explore/feel and label. They will go on to look at objects made from these materials in order to distinguish the object from its material and will learn and use new vocabulary to describe properties of materials. Making links to the story Puss in Boots, children will be asked to investigate which material would be best to make an umbrella for Puss to help him stay dry on his travels. They will also be asked to investigate which material would be best to make a bridge to cross a river, working in groups to build their bridges using a range of everyday materials. They will be encouraged to explore how rolling/folding and joining materials can give them more strength. Both investigations will give children the opportunity to learn about fair testing and variables at an age appropriate level.

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: determination, resilience, bravery, 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. They will develop an understanding of fact and opinion and how we learn about events from the past.

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) and mark on a class map places the children or their families have moved from/to. We will be requesting you help with this!

Children will learn what is meant by physical and human features in geography. In addition to a walk around the village, 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 Mathseeds logins to use at home, we will discuss the importance of staying safe online and through the use Zip it, Block it, Flag it. Please ask your child about this to check their understanding.

Using programmable toys and online programs such as Litebot 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 such as Mathseeds 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 materials such as, card, foil, fabric, wool and paint to reproduce their own version of Mondrian's 'Composition with Yellow, Blue and Red'. It is intended that these artworks will become part of our hall display.

PE:

Dance: Using a range of GoNoodle guided dance videos, children will learn about the structure of dance routines – including repetitive elements. They will explore moving in different ways, using rhythm and music as inspiration. We will also look at dance routines/videos performed by Little Mix – making connections to local/successful artists.

PSHE:

Theme 1: Rights and responsibilities Theme 2 Growing and changing

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 Tuesday afternoons by Mr Benefield. Children will learn to: use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes and will be introduced to various instruments, experimenting with sound and rhythm.

RE

Also taught by Mr Benefield this half term will follow the SACRE syllabus looking at Christianity: Lifestyles and Communities / Christianity: Festivals (Harvest) / Hinduism: Festivals (Diwali 27.10.19)

Homework: In KS1 children will have regular reading books and will on occasion, where appropriate 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 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 being covered and will be sent home with your child once the topic is up and running.

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 PE kit, reading book and reading record.
- 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 and must be available on their designated reading 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 interesting artefacts related to the subjects outlined in this information sheet that your child could share for a display or discussion, please bring them into school – we promise to look after them and return them!
- Please check your child's book bag frequently for letters and other information. Any reply slips should be returned to the class teacher who will send these to the office via the class register.

If you have any queries please remember we have an open-door policy at NHFS and I am available for appointments before or after school and as class teacher, all queries should be directed to myself in the first instance.

Thank you for your support
Mrs Banks