



# Autumn Curriculum Newsletter Year 1

## Key Dates and Important messages

- PE Days **Fiji** class Monday & Tuesday: **Australia** class Tuesday and Thursday and **Tonga** class Tuesday & Thursday
- Year 1 Library: Every Friday

## Talk for writing

During this half term, children will be looking at the story *How to Catch a Star* by Oliver Jeffers. They will be learning to recite the story in order to then use new sentence structures in their own writing. Our children will be looking at what makes a story interesting and enjoyable, and compiling a 'toolkit' of good features. They will be using their toolkits to take ownership over making their writing the best it can be. They will develop their vocabulary and understanding of a range of language and sentence structures, always focusing on capital letters and full stops. There will also be a focus on conjunctions such as 'and' and 'because' as well as adjectives.

### How you can help

- Discuss the children's day with them, and ask them to share their new story with you.
- Whenever our children write, focus on writing in full sentences using capital letters and full stops.
- When reading with them, point out key focus areas: past and present tense, adjectives, and conjunctions.

## Maths Mastery

We will be using the Maths Mastery programme in Year 1. Over the course of the term, we will be covering a variety of topics. We will be looking at number bonds within 10, doubling numbers to 10, adding and subtracting numbers to 20, shape, pattern and time. They will be encouraged to speak in full sentences using mathematical vocabulary.

### How you can help

- Compare the length of objects around your house using the vocabulary 'longer and shorter'.
- Practise number bonds within 10 as often as possible.
- Ask children to recognise 2D and 3D shapes around the house and talk about the properties of these shapes.
- Count with your children and encourage them to read and write numbers to 100.
- Please encourage our children to use Mathematics daily.

## PSHE and RE

This term in PSHE, we are focusing on "Rights and Responsibilities". During the term, our children will discuss how to contribute to the life of the classroom and why it is important to have rules and how they can help them. They will also learn that they belong to various groups and communities such as family and school.

This term in R.E. children will be learning about celebrations from different faiths.

### How you can help

- Encourage your child to discuss the rules in your house and how they can help you with small tasks, e.g. loading the dishwasher.
- Discuss with your child the different community groups they belong to.
- Talk about any festivals you celebrate.

## Enquiry curriculum:

### Let's Get Moving!

As part of our Enquiry learning, the children will be finding out the answers to 'How are countries around the world unique?' They will begin to use a map to identify the continents and the oceans of the world and then identify different countries. They will explore the country we live in and various landmarks within it. They will then look at some countries in depth, exploring their culture, food and landmarks. They will be using Art and DT to make a range of objects from those countries.

Our children will then present their findings and exhibit their work.

### How you can help

- Talk to your child about where they live and famous landmarks they would find near them.
- Research with your child the country your family are from. The different things you could research are the food, festivals, songs, dances, clothing, religions, famous landmarks and artefacts from that country.
- Use a world map with your child and locate the continents and oceans. Point out the different countries and continents.

# Our school development priorities

## Reading

This year we are continuing to focus on reading, ensuring our children are the best readers they can be. As you know, reading is a vital skill for our children to develop and it ensures their success in all other areas of the curriculum. This term we are focusing on developing children's fluency and confidence in reading. They will read a range of challenging texts and will have opportunities to enjoy reading and share their favourite books. We are developing children's confidence through drama and discussion, encouraging them to share their views and opinions. At home, your child should be reading every day. If they find reading difficult, you can encourage them to use their Fred talk to sound out words. Children benefit from having good reading models, so if you are able to read aloud to your child it will benefit their reading skills. It is useful to question your child about what they are reading. If you would like more guidance on this, talk to your child's teacher and refer to the reading list which has been sent home. We are also encouraging children to explore different books and enjoy their reading. Take some time to visit the library and explore different texts, such as non-fiction, novels, picture books, graphic novels and magazines.



## Health and well-being

As you are aware, we as a school are committed to developing our children to not only become lifelong learners but people who are healthy both in mind and body. For this reason, we have now agreed to be part of a programme called 'Active Movement', which is focused on encouraging children to be just a little bit more active in the day. For example, they stand up to answer questions in class, move around the class when saying their times tables, and are generally a little bit more active in their everyday lessons. In addition, children will be going on walks around the school (you will see the posters around the school) and enjoying the lovely site we have. As well as exercising, it is imperative we teach our children how to eat healthily, as habits are formed very early in life. Therefore, we have put together a healthy eating policy which can be accessed on the school website or from the school office. We talk to children about their mental well-being in school and have worry boxes for them to share their anxieties or concerns with their teachers. To help your children at home, encourage your children to share what they did at school, any concerns they had or things they are excited about.



## Problem solving

In addition to their normal Maths lessons, the children have a Maths Meeting, in which we share and recap previous learning, practise and refine skills which have already been taught. This daily revisit enables the mathematical concepts to become embedded in children's long term memory. Children also spend every day in school going over some of their times tables. Times tables are something which will be remembered if you practise daily. You can do this through games, reciting, different computer apps or songs such as Percy Parker.

To enable your children to become problem solvers, why not give them real-life problems to solve where they can practise and apply their maths learning. For example, ask them to work out how many minutes or hours before the bus arrives, how much change will be given in the shop, or how many ingredients you need if you double the quantity.

You can find a range of problem solving activities on <http://uk.mathletics.com/>.

