



Year 1 Curriculum Newsletter

Autumn Term

Welcome to Year 1.

We are excited to begin the Autumn Term and start our learning in Year 1. The girls have settled well and are already showing enthusiasm for the year ahead. This term, we will be building on the skills learned in Reception, and learning how to be more independent learners.

English

The girls have started their Literacy lessons this term through reading the lovely story "*The Great Pet Sale*" by *Mike Inkpen*. The book has provided a fun way to develop reading, writing, and discussion skills. In addition, every week, the girls are talking and writing about what they did at the weekends and on holidays, where the key focus initially is on using capital letters, finger spaces between words, and full stops at the end of a sentence. We have started work on handwriting skills, where we are focussing on the "curly caterpillar" letters first. We will then move onto the other categories, namely "ladder letters", "one-armed robots" and "zigzag" letters. Read Write Inc. also forms part of our daily learning of phonics, reading, writing and spelling.

Maths

We are currently working on Place Value up to 10, where the girls are looking at the value of each digit within a number. We are moving onto addition and subtraction later in the term. The girls also have been learning how to recognise numbers as words. We learn Maths in a variety of ways, through practical games and activities and using the workbooks provided by Whiterose Education. We also incorporate Maths into many other areas of our learning, for example Science and Geography, and even English!



Science

We have been learning about Everyday Materials. The girls have been identifying everyday materials, and distinguishing between an object and the material it is made from. We have been talking about what it means to be a scientist, and we will be making a visit to the Secondary Science department this term. We will also look at Seasonal Changes this term, where we will learn about the changes in the four seasons, including an experiment in collecting and measuring rainfall.



Computing

Our focus this term is online safety, how to keep ourselves safe online and who our trusted adults are. Ms Osment will also be focusing on early programming concepts. She will also explore individual commands and algorithms.

History

The girls are learning about the past, the present and the future. They have been talking about their own timeline by sharing information about themselves using photographs of themselves as a baby, toddler and starting school, and other important events. Thank you for providing the photos. This has been very enjoyable, as the girls have talked so freely, and had fun remembering important events in their childhood. They have just started to produce their own timeline, and I think they will really enjoy the next section which compares modern toys with toys from the past.

PSHE

The girls have been learning about themselves and the people around them. We are using a programme called "Life to the Full". We have been thinking about what it means to be kind to one another, showing respect and being fair. We will be talking about the Zones of Regulation to help the girls talk about how they are feeling, and how this affects their learning. The student service team have also introduced the 'Decider Skills' programme to teach children a variety of strategies to help them make the right choices, and it is proving popular with Year 1.

Art

The girls have started to learn about how to use their sketchbooks. We have been exploring Watercolours, and learning about Primary and Secondary colours. There is a lot of opportunity for the children to explore various painting techniques. We are going to go on to talk about landscapes, and the girls can choose a landscape they like, and try to produce their own landscape painting using the watercolours. We can also make links between this module and the seasonal changes in Science.



Homework

Homework is currently focussing on Literacy and Maths. This should supplement their learning in class, and it is very important that this is a positive experience at this early stage. Thank you for your support with homework so far. When helping with the writing of sentences, please encourage capital letters, finger spaces between words, and full stops at the end of sentences. Please contact me should you have any queries or concerns with the homework.

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