



St. Margaret's C.E. Primary School
Y1 Autumn Newsletter September 2018



Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new school year! We hope you had an enjoyable summer holiday.

All the staff want your child to feel happy and secure at school. Please come and talk to us if you have any concerns at all.

We are including, below, a brief overview for each subject which has been developed in line with the National Curriculum.

Maths

- In Maths we will be covering the following: counting; reading and writing numbers (including counting in 2s, 5s and 10s); addition and subtraction (using 1-digit and 2-digit numbers); numbers bonds to 10 and 20; number problems; multiplication and division using concrete objects and arrays; finding half; measuring and comparing length, mass, capacity and time; recognising coins; sequencing events; recognising and naming 2-D and 3-D shapes and describing movement.

If you would like to help your child at home we attach helpful information about our calculation policy.

English

All children will be set for phonics lessons across the whole of KS1, ensuring they are making progress at their own level. We will continue to use 'Letters and Sounds' to ensure they have acquired all the sounds they need to be confident in both reading and spelling.

- Children will consolidate their ability to write sentences which make sense using a capital letter and full stop. We will also look at using interesting vocabulary and conjunctions to improve and extend sentences.

Spelling

This year, rather than a set list of spellings to learn, the children will be investigating spelling rules and patterns, as well as trying to learn some common (high frequency) words. These will be tested through dictation each week, to ensure that children can apply their knowledge of spelling within their writing. The rule of the week and common words your child is finding tricky to apply, will be sent home to practise. A list of spelling rules that we will look at in the Autumn term is attached.

Science

- Our first unit this year is 'Animals including Humans'. This includes identifying and naming a variety of common animals and their structures. We will also look at seasonal changes in the school grounds throughout the year.

Computing

- Basic logging on skills
- Technology in our lives- recognise how technology is used in the home and community
- E Safety- keeping safe online

We aim to embed ICT into subjects across the whole curriculum.

Design Technology

- Constructing a picture with a moving part.

Art

- Portraits of ourselves and others

History

- Changes which have occurred within living memory.

Geography

- 'My School, My Home' – looking at the features of our school grounds and routes to school.

P.E.

- Gymnastics

Music

- Exploring sounds using the theme 'ourselves'.
- Singing and performing Christmas songs and adding instrumental effects to Christmas music.

PSHCE

- Relationships: feelings, differences, fair and unfair.

RSE

- To identify and respect the similarities and differences between people.
- To communicate their feelings to others, to recognise how others show feelings and how to respond.
- To recognise what is fair and unfair, kind and unkind, and right and wrong.

Religious Education

- What can we learn about Christianity from visiting a Church?
- Why are gifts given at Christmas?

Christmas

Year 1 will be performing a Christmas play as a year group this year. The performances will be on Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th December. Tickets and more information will be available closer to the time.

Individual Reading Records

The children have access to Reading Scheme books and Library books. These are all colour coded. The title, date and any comments you wish to make should be written in their Individual Reading Record book before the children choose another book. Children may be asked to read the book more than once before changing it or may be given a task relating to the book. Reading regularly at home helps them to make good progress and we advise trying to read for 10 minutes per day. Your child will also take part in group reading activities at school.

Children will have access to books from the school library everyday but will only change their reading scheme book twice per week. It is hoped that this will help to broaden your child's vocabulary as they widen their reading material.

This year we have also invested in 'Bug Club'. This is an online reading scheme, linked to the banded system of our reading scheme. As this is new to us, more details will be sent out once the staff have received training!

Uniform

Would you please try to ensure that your child's uniform (including coats, shoes, wellies, P.E. shoes etc.) is **named**. If it is clearly named we can return it to the child should they misplace it! We often have many jumpers, cardigans and coats in our 'Lost Property' boxes without names. At the end of each term, these will be either given to the Friends of St. Margaret's for the second hand uniform sale or given to a local charity shop as we do not have the room to hold onto them.

Homework

Your child will have daily reading practice, a list of your child's tricky words (personal to each child) and a piece of Numeracy homework (sent home on a Friday) each week. Please ensure homework books are brought back into school on Monday if possible, and **no later than Wednesday**. We understand that your children have other activities outside the school and may have difficulty completing tasks on a set night. If this is the case, please complete the homework when time is available.

School bags

As we provide all stationery in school, we ask that your child only bring in a book bag, P.E. bag, lunch box (if needed) and a coat as we simply do not have enough space for any large rucksacks!

Helping in school

The staff greatly appreciate the help given by parents and grandparents in the classroom and the children really benefit from the extra input. If you feel you could help in school, either on a regular basis or when time allows, please see a member of staff.

*Please note you will not be able to work in your own child's class, but would be **warmly welcomed** to work with a different teacher!*

Alternatively if you feel that you have the expertise or resources to contribute to our topics, again, please see a member of staff. All adults coming into school to work with children or those who accompany trips will be asked to have a police check. It would be helpful if this was done in advance and DBS forms are available from the office.

Timetable

In order to give you an outline of your child's day, a copy of the timetable is attached to this newsletter. Please understand that the primary school timetable is very flexible in order to keep it varied and interesting, so this is given as guidance only.

Show and Tell

Show and Tell sessions take place every Friday in Year 1. Five children each week will have a turn to show the rest of the class something they have brought from home, or tell them some news. They may bring something that is special to them (e.g. something they have won, a photograph, a souvenir from a holiday or something similar – **NO TOYS** please). If you are unsure if something is suitable for show and tell or not, please do not hesitate to ask.

Coming into school at 8.45am

Children are dropped off in the Infant Yard and can come straight into school from 8.45am. The bell will ring for all children to come into school at 8.55am and the gate will remain open for only 5 minutes after this. If you arrive once the gate is locked, please sign your child in at the main office. **DO NOT** lift your child over the fence or send them straight up the stairs near the office, as the doors are locked and children can become distressed if they are locked out on their own.

Short messages can be left with the members of staff on the school gate or with office staff via a letter or email.

Leaving school at 3.30pm

At 3.30pm the teachers will lead their own classes out. We would like to remind parents that they should wait at the far side of the playground and **must not allow younger siblings to play on the safari area**.

For the safety of the children, should your child need to re-enter the building (e.g. if they have forgotten something) they must first ask a teacher and then go through the hall door. (Once handed over, parents are responsible for their child.)

Please could we remind parents not to allow pre-school children to play on the outdoor area while they are waiting to collect older siblings as it is very distracting for the children working in class. Also please be aware that school

cannot be held responsible for the safety of children in this area unless they are supervised by school staff. Children are not allowed to play football on the Infant yard during this time as children have been injured in the past. Also we would like to remind you that children **must not ride their scooters or bicycles within the school grounds**, including the Infant yard, either before or after school. This has caused accidents and damage to staff cars in the past, as well as injuries to other children. Please ensure your child pushes their vehicles to the end of the school drive.

Plea for blankets and cushions

We have created a new reading corner in our outdoor area and we are in need of blankets and cushions to make the area extra cosy for the children to use. If you do have any we can use, please send them in with your child.

Thank you for you co-operation and support. It is much appreciated!

Miss Southwick and Mrs White