



St. Margaret's C.E. Primary School
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, developed in line with the National Curriculum.

Numeracy

- Counting, properties of number, place value and ordering, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, movement, length, weight, capacity, symmetry, 2D and 3D shape, time, data handling and fractions.

We have invested in the new 'Power Maths' Scheme of work this year. This scheme has been developed using a mastery approach to learning, alongside experts from the White Rose Hub. This year, your children will have a different workbook for each term and alongside this, we will continue to develop their enquiry and reasoning skills through additional problem solving to deepen their understanding.

Literacy

- Word level work- phonics, spelling, sight vocabulary
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. They will also work on the Year 2 spelling objectives within class.
- Sentence level work- children will be helped to secure their use of full stops and capital letters before moving onto to develop their use of other punctuation. They will also begin to think about using adjectives and conjunctions to make their writing more interesting.
- Poetry- all children will be encouraged to learn a poem off by heart.

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

- We will look at the use of everyday materials (Chemistry). This will include investigating the suitability of everyday materials for uses and exploring how materials can be changed (squashing, twisting etc.).

Information Technology

- Multimedia- using technology to present ideas, including adding text and images and opening and saving files
- Technology in our lives- thinking about how technology can be useful both at home and in school

- E Safety- thinking about why we need passwords and how to be safe when using the internet

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

Design Technology

- Sculpture (Looking at the work of Tom Claasson)

Art

- Printing

History

- Explorers (Captain Cook, Ranulph Fiennes and Neil Armstrong)

Geography

- Exploring Hot and Cold Areas (Link to explorers e.g. Captain Scott, Ranulph Fiennes)
Human and Physical Geography
- Location of hot & cold areas, equator, North & South Poles.
- Identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the UK and the location of hot and cold areas of the world in relation to the Equator and the North and South Poles.

P.E.

- Gymnastics

Music

- Experimenting with sounds
- Playing and performing together

During the Year all Y2 children will also have the chance to take part in 'Little Fingers' for 1 term, where they will learn to read music while playing the violin. This is provided by Mr. Hartley, our upper strings teacher from Durham Music Service.

PSHCE

- Health and Well Being- to think about themselves; to learn from their experiences; to recognise and celebrate their strengths; to set simple but challenging goals

RSE

- To recognise when people are being unkind, either to them or others; how to respond, who to tell and what to say
- To know that there are different types of teasing and bullying; that these are wrong and unacceptable and to know that people's bodies and feelings can be hurt

Religious Education

- What can we learn from the story of St. Cuthbert?
- Why is light important at Christmas?

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 Thursday/ Friday) each week.

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.

Book bags

Just a polite reminder that we do not have much space in KS1 and there we have asked that children do not bring in **large** rucksacks, as these do not fit in the storage areas and cause a trip hazard. Children will bring a P.E. kit, which will remain in school for the duration of each half term (P.E. is on a Tuesday). They need a book bag to hold their reading books, library book and homework book and a water bottle, which has a container for each table's bottles within their classroom.

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 may not be able to work in school 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 CRB 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.

Dates:

Parents Evenings 14th and 15th November

There will also be a Year 2 Christingle, a violin concert for group 1 parents and a school trip. We will inform you as soon as these dates are confirmed!

Coming into school

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. Year 2 will be led through the safari play equipment to avoid congestion. We would therefore like to remind parents that they should wait at the far side of the playground and **must not allow younger siblings to play in this area** while waiting to collect their child, for their own safety and the safety of others. It is very distracting for the children working in classes and we have had several younger siblings go missing recently.

For the safety of the children, should your child need to re-enter the building (e.g. if they have forgotten something) they must ask a member of staff before doing so. Sadly we cannot allow parents to accompany them. This is to safeguard the children who are in our tea club and after school sports clubs. Staff will ensure they are returned to their parent on leaving the building!

Also, we ask that children do not play football or other games 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 on 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.

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

Mrs. Bell and Miss. Poskett