

Dear Parents

YEAR 1 CURRICULUM NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN TERM

Welcome to Year One! We hope you've all had a wonderful break over the summer holidays and enjoyed some family time. It has been lovely getting to know the children this first week and a half and we thank you for being patient with us at home time, as we get to know you too. The children have really impressed us by following the Golden Rules and have settled into the Year One structure fantastically well. They have enjoyed sitting in their table groups and taking on responsibilities to look after our classrooms and equipment. You will have an opportunity to meet with your child's new teachers at the parents' evenings but if any issues arise in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us to arrange an appointment.

Thank you for ensuring the children arrive at the classroom doors between 8.30am and 8.45am so that we can begin their learning promptly at 8:50am. The children are getting more familiar with where their trays etc are and putting their things away independently. We have been getting them straight to work, reinforcing previous learning by completing morning jobs. In Year One the children build on the skills they developed in the Foundation Stage and begin their journey on the National Curriculum, with a more traditional timetable of lessons. We hope you have found the timetables we posted helpful when talking to your children. Here are further details of what we will be learning in each subject between now and the Christmas holidays:

English - In English, we use a whole school approach to writing, called 'The Write Stuff', which uses exciting experience days to inspire the children to stack super sentences, which we proudly build on a wall display! We often use our imaginations to create excitement within the classroom and we will share photos and videos of these with you on ClassDojo. We have already finished our pirate and dinosaur themes and will be focusing on basic grammar, e.g. nouns, verbs before starting our first sentence stack. Our first story will be *The Train Ride* by June Crebbin, before moving onto *The Queen's Hat*, by Steve Anthony. We will then look at and create firework poems after half term.

We have enjoyed sharing picture books initially, but will soon start our class novels. This term we will let the children choose between *The Twits* and *George's Marvellous Medicine* by Roald Dahl.

Phonics and Reading - Year One will continue to use the Read Write Inc. Phonics program. This will include sending home new books that closely match the lessons. Further details on this will be shared with you in our KS1 Reading and Phonics Evening on Monday 16th October.

Reading for Pleasure - We want to encourage a love of reading in our children. We encourage children to borrow books from our bookshelves to share with you at home. These are books that they would love you to read to them. We remind them to select a new book to swap each Friday but they can swap them whenever they are ready. Reading Records are a little journal that you can fill in with the books/pages your child has read to you. This can be their Read Write Inc book, but it doesn't have to be. Each time your child reads please just write the title and date and when we check on a Friday we will tick these off and reward them with a token for our class jar. We will have a competition each half term between the Year One classes and the class that has the most tokens and has therefore read the most will win a class treat!

Maths - From Year One we use the Power Maths White Rose Edition scheme and will also be delivering an additional short 'Mastering Number' program session to develop further number sense and fluency. There will be lots of opportunities to use practical equipment, as well as challenging them through reasoning and problem-solving tasks. This term we will focus on numbers to 10, place value, addition and subtraction and shape. Children can continue to practise number skills at home using their Numbots logins, (which also work on TT Rockstars, if they're ready for a challenge) and WRM 1 minute maths app, see <https://whiteroseeducation.com/1-minute-maths> for details.

Science: - We will be exploring the seasonal changes, focusing on autumn and winter. We will also be learning all about everyday materials and their properties, such as absorbency, transparency etc.

Computing: - The children will be using technology in the classroom using both computers and digital devices; developing keyboard, and mouse skills and knowing how to be responsible for the device they are with.

Humanities (Autumn 1: Geography, Autumn 2: History) - The children will develop understanding about their own locality by identifying human and physical features and going on a short field trip around Towcester. Further details to follow. They will be using maps, atlases, and globes to identify the UK and its countries. We hope you will enjoy having a visit from Barnaby the travelling bear, when it's your turn. The front of the diary tells you what to do! In History the children will begin to think about the things that have changed and stayed the same within living memory.

RE - We will consider how books can be special and understand how the Bible, and the stories it contains, influence the way Christians lead their lives. We will invite the children to share their special books with us and Rev. Paula will visit to share some of her special books with us too.

PSHE/Health and Well-being - This term we are focusing on feelings and relationships. We will introduce the concept of growth mindset and 'the power of yet'. We have shown the children how to say 'Stop. I don't like it!' and have been pleased with how effectively this has been used on the playground already. We will consider who can help us and what to do if we have a worry. We will be introducing the 'worry boxes' we have in the classrooms if the children want to share a worry with us as a note or picture, but please remind them to tell us so that we can chat these through with them and don't miss it.

PE - The children will need their PE kits in school during term time and we will send them home for a wash in the holidays. Our PE day is Tuesday. This term we are learning dance with a specialist dance teacher. Please note that for all PE lessons, children with long hair must wear it tied back and any jewellery worn (including earrings) must be removed. Please ensure that all uniform and PE kit is clearly named. As we will take the children outside for some of our PE lessons you may want to send in jogging bottoms and a hoody, preferably black. We have enjoyed running around the field for a daily mile most days and we hope for this to continue when the weather permits. We also have some Y1 inter-trust multi-skills events in November, dates and details to follow.

Forest School/Outdoor Learning

This will be held on alternate Wednesday afternoons with Mrs Hamilton. Children can either bring wellies to school on that day and we will send them home again after their session, or they can stay in school.

Dates

1JW: 13.9.23, 27.9.23, 11.10.23, 1.11.23, 15.11.23, 29.11.23, 13.12.23

1KJ: 20.9.23, 4.10.23, 18.10.23, 8.11.23, 22.11.23, 6.12.23, 20.12.23

Music - In Music lessons, the pupils will be exploring some old school Hip-Hop from the 80s and will learn how pulse, rhythm and pitch work together. Later, as well as learning our Christmas songs, we will explore pulse, rhythm and pitch, rapping, dancing and singing with a reggae style song.

Art - From Year One children go to the Art room, for small group lessons with Mrs Thomas our Art teacher. This term we are learning about famous artists and their portraits and each child will produce their own individual self-portraits using oil pastels, for our class gallery.

Key Dates

Please refer to the website via the following link:

<https://www.nicholashawksmooracademy.com/events/>

Warrior Challenge – This will be Year One's first experience of this amazingly fun experience. We all have a brilliant time and all children love getting extremely muddy! Please send in a full set of spare clothes, including underwear, towel, plastic bag for wet things and if you prefer you can send waterproofs to be worn, but we can't guarantee they'll stay dry underneath!

Projects - This is another whole school activity that begins in Year One. It is a really lovely opportunity for the children to show and tell their individual skills and interests, around a common theme. They can be as creative as they like and show us what they have learned by making, writing, drawing or using technology. Please don't feel any pressure as parents to make these perfect, it's all about the children enjoying a project and having the confidence to talk about it in front of their peers. We usually share on the first Friday back after a holiday. Children will receive a merit for their efforts.

Autumn 1 Topic: Fireworks - To be shared on Friday 3rd November



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Autumn 2 Topic: Christmas/Celebrations - To be shared on Friday 12th January.

Book Bags - Please ensure that your child has their book bag in school each day. Children will sometimes bring home letters, pictures etc. Please can you check their bag every day and help them to remove these items so that they can quickly and independently access their reading book etc when they need to.

Water Bottles and Snack - Please ensure your child's water bottle is clearly named. You may want to provide an additional drink if they have a lunch box, as these don't come straight back to the classroom. Free daily fruit is provided, which we encourage the children to eat. Alternatively, you could provide your child with a small, healthy snack for playtime, can we ask that this is equivalent e.g. fruit they like, rather than crisps or chocolate! Please also remember that we are a nut free school.

Positive Behaviour - We have been sharing our school's Golden Rules with the children and we have been so impressed with their behaviour so far. Barnaby Bear will be looking out for children to come home with each week, as a reward for following the Golden Rules. We hope you have been enjoying sharing your child's successes when they receive a dojo and seeing what they've been up to with our regular posts. Each week there will be Dojo Champions too and Head Teacher and Assistant Head Teacher certificates awarded in assembly! 😊

Our Golden Rules Be ready, Be respectful, Be safe

Across the school, we are working to develop children's character and understanding of responsibility. As a result, each year group have created three pledges to achieve by the end of the year with the children. We are committed to achieving these pledges this year.

1. Our school community – We will work together to keep our classroom tidy.
2. Our local community – We will learn about how we can keep ourselves and others safe in the area around school.
3. Personal Development – We will begin to learn about some different religions.

Best Wishes

The Year One Team