



Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope you all had a relaxing holiday and are ready for another busy term in Year 1.

## Curriculum

In **English**, we have already started talking about our favourite toys and writing descriptions of them. We will be focusing on the stories 'Lost in the Toy Museum' and 'Storm Whale' this term. Please see the **Weekly Overviews** for more detail.

In **Maths**, we started the unit of work 'Addition and Subtraction strategies within 20'. We will be reading, writing and interpreting mathematical statements involving addition (+), subtraction (-) and equals (=) signs, learning our number bonds to 20, adding and subtracting one-digit and two-digit numbers to 20 including zero, and solving one-step problems that involve addition and subtraction.

In **Phonics**, we will continue learning the phase 5 sounds. Please see the weekly overview to see which sounds we are learning each week. Please see the separate post on ParentHub regarding **Weekly Spellings**.

This half-term our focus will be on 'Castles' in **History**. We will be learning about who was 'William the conqueror' and discuss the battle of the Hastings, looking at different features of a castle, using maps to locate some castles within the UK, find out about life and jobs in a medieval castle, find out about knights and what their roles are, and finally compare the lives of Queen Elizabeth I and II and the castles they lived in.

Our **Science** topic for this term is 'Everyday Materials'. Children will be identifying and naming a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and rock, describing the simple physical properties of a variety of everyday materials, and comparing and grouping together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties.

In **Music**, our unit of work is 'What's it made of?' We will be learning to sing and play musical instruments with a steady beat.

Our **Religion and Worldviews** unit of work is 'How do we celebrate our journey through life?' We will be talking about how people celebrate important events in their lives.

Our Personal Social Health Education (**PSHE**) unit of work will be 'Health and Wellbeing'. We are also going to be focusing on 'Equality and Diversity' this term. We will be reading the book 'We are all Welcome' and doing different activities relating to the story.

In **Computing**, we will be starting a new unit called 'Algorithms Unplugged'. We will be learning what algorithms are, to follow instructions precisely to carry out an action, to understand that computers and devices around us use inputs and outputs and to debug an algorithm using directions and a map.

In **PE** we will be focusing on dance, gymnastics and games. Please ensure children come to school dressed in their PE kits. They can wear shorts, leggings or tracksuit bottoms, and a t-shirt and will need to be wearing trainers.

**Headteacher Leon Choueke**

**MyMaths/Numbots**

Some new activities for this term have been added to MyMaths. There are a range of activities based on what we are learning at school this term. Some of the activities your child may be able to do independently, but with some of them your child may need some adult support. If you require a reminder of logins please speak to your class teacher.

**Junk Modelling, spare clothes and crafts money**

As always, we really appreciate any cardboard boxes for us to use for junk modelling, any trousers/leggings and socks as well as any monetary donations for crafting materials. If you would prefer to donate something specific, we are in desperate need of Pritt Sticks in Year 1!

**Trips**

We are in the process of trying to book trips for this term and later in the year and will keep you updated very soon!

**Dates for your diaries**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January:** Sibling photos

**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January:** INSET day (school is closed for all children)

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March:** INSET day (school is closed for all children)

If you have any questions or queries then please make an appointment to speak to your child's class teacher.

We are looking forward to a very happy and successful half term.

Yours sincerely, The Year 1 Team

**Headteacher Leon Choueke**

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