

Year 1 - Squirrel Class



Autumn Term 2018-19



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you and your children had an enjoyable and relaxing summer holiday! This newsletter aims to inform you of the learning and routines of Squirrel Class so that you are able to help your child settle into Year 1 and an exciting year ahead. If you have any questions, please do feel free to come and ask!

Morning drop off

Squirrel class will come in through the cloakroom door. Our class pegs are in this area so the children will be greeted by myself or Mrs Wakeling and we will encourage their independence in putting their things where they need to be. After the children have got used to these routines we ask that you let them come in independently and can wave to say goodbye at the class window.

What to bring daily:

Book bags

Reading is a vital part of our learning in year 1 and we expect that children read for at least 10 minutes every night and bring their book bag in every day. We will change reading books on **Monday**, **Wednesday** and **Friday** providing the book has been read and the reading record is signed. We will read individually with your child once per week in order to teach reading and assess their progress.



Coats

We continue to do a great deal of outdoor learning so the children should come to school with a coat if there is any forecast for cold weather or rain.

Water Bottles

Please ensure that your child has a **named** water bottle to keep in the classroom in addition to their lunchtime drink. Please do not provide juice- either fresh, diluting or fizzy- in your child's water bottle.

Fruit

Year 1 receive a free piece of fruit during morning break. There is no need to provide any money for this.



P.E.

The class will have P.E. on **Wednesdays** and **Thursdays**. Children are expected to have full P.E. kit in order to participate. Please take a moment to write your child's names on **each** item of clothing, including trainers, as it is very common for items to get mixed up when children are changing. Unless your child can tie their own shoelaces we would encourage them to wear slip on trainers so they can get changed quickly and independently.

Home Learning

Children will be set home learning tasks every Thursday. They will bring home the task instruction sheet and have until the following Monday to complete the tasks.

In addition to the weekly home learning task, children will be given a list of spellings. We will test the spellings on Thursdays meaning the children will have a week to practice their spellings each night. We will include a list of games and ideas for practicing spellings with your child.

Phonics

Phonics is a crucial part of Year 1. We will follow on from the phonic work that has been done in the early years and extend the children's knowledge by introducing alternative sounds in daily lessons and activities.

In the summer term there is a Year 1 Phonics Screening Test to assess your children's ability to read real and nonsense words using the sounds they have been taught. We do a lot of practice throughout the year and the children thoroughly enjoy the screening rather than view it as an assessment.

We aim to run a phonics workshop in the autumn term to allow you to see the sorts of games we do to develop the children's phonic knowledge.

Autumn Term Learning

Our topic themes for this term are:

"What are the seasons?"

(Seasonal changes)

- English: poetic language, performing poetry, figurative language.
Key text: Out and About by Shirley Hughes
- Maths: Number and Place Value (within 10) – comparing, counting, writing, ordering, adding
- Science: observing seasonal changes
- Geography: Seasonal and daily weather patterns
- Art/D.T: 4 season tree collages; making a weather mobile
- R.E. – Who is God?
- PSHE – New Beginnings
- Music: Weather sound pictures.

"Why did London Burn?"

(Great fire of London.)

- Literacy: Claude in the City by Alex T Smith
- Maths: Number and Place Value (within 10) – subtracting, finding the difference (within 20) – comparing, counting, writing; 2D and 3D shapes
- History: The Great Fire of London
- Science: Properties of Materials
- Art/DI – designing birthday cards; making a Christmas decoration;
- R.E. – Why do people give presents at Christmas?
- PSHE – Going for Goals
- Drama: Christmas Nativity; using drama to retell stories.

Children will also have a 30 minute Spanish lesson each week, taught by a specialist language teacher.

Please have a look at our yearly curriculum overview on our class page on the school website for more details. We will update the page with pictures and information about what we have been doing in Squirrel Class!

Trips and Visits

We are in the process of organising trips and visits for the Autumn Term to support our curriculum learning. Further information will follow in due course.

Parent Helpers

Your support can make a huge difference to the children's learning. We welcome offers of help from parents who are willing to hear children read, change reading books, prepare resources and help with cooking. If you are interested, please come and discuss your availability with us.

We hope you find the information in this newsletter useful. You are always welcome to contact us to discuss any concerns that you may have. Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Miseldine: Class Teacher

Mrs Wakeling: Teaching Assistant

Mrs Rodriguez: Teaching Assistant

