

Year 1 Elm & Beech Class

Autumn Term 2014

I hope you and your children have had a wonderful summer and that they are returning to school well rested and ready for the new school year ahead. We are really looking forward to the year and we are already off to a great start, your children are delightful.

Literacy lessons continue on a daily basis in Year One with an emphasis upon developing literacy skills in reading and writing. Children will also continue to develop their handwriting skills at least three times a week. Phonics skills lessons will happen daily to underpin the development of reading and writing. We are going to look at stories with familiar settings, explanation texts, writing instructions, pieces of poetry and traditional tales over the whole term during literacy. Your child will be heard to read at least twice a week in school. Your child will need their book and record in school everyday, as days that your child reads in school will vary. Please record all that they read at home in their reading record. It is highly beneficial for developing readers to be read to as well as listened to so please make a note of their bedtime stories too.

Numeracy lessons will take place every day and will aim to further the children's understanding of the number system and place value. The children will experience different formats of questioning such as word problems and money and measures. We will allow the children to explore maths and experience more breadth of learning through problem solving activities. We will also be looking at other areas of maths such as shape, space and measures mainly through practical activities.

In addition they will use computer programs within lessons to use and apply their knowledge. Children will also have the opportunity to develop their skills in maths in the maths challenge area, which they will be expected to go in daily.

Your children will all be given individual targets for Maths and English, we will send these home so you are aware of what your child is working on and can support them in this. Children will also have reading targets which will be at the front of their reading record.

As you will have seen in the news, there have been numerous changes to the curriculum and our planning for the forthcoming year reflects these changes,

In the first half term we will be covering these subjects;

Science

We will be looking at Seasonal changes and plants.

Art

Collage is our topic for this half term.

Geography

We will be learning about our local area and being environmentally friendly.

Computing

The children will follow instructions, learning how to stay safe online and digital arts in the real world.

RE

We will be learning about Buddhism and how some people behave because they believe in God.

PSHE

The children will talk about why it is important to follow instructions and how to look after themselves and stay healthy.

In the second half term we will be covering;

Science

We will be learning about Animals and humans.

DT

Our topic for this half term is structures. The children will have the opportunity to make their own structures.

History

Toys in the past.

Computing

We will follow instructions to make things, learn about digital footprints and creating digital images.

RE

We will be learning about Christianity and what stories are told about God.

PSHE

We will focus on friendships and feelings.

PE

Elm class will be taking part in PE on a Monday and Wednesday for the whole of the Autumn term. Beech class will take part in PE Tuesday and Friday.

We will be covering Games, Dance and Gymnastics. Please ensure your child's PE kit is in school everyday. This also includes footwear (pumps or trainers) as we will be going outside as much as possible.

Water Bottles

It is very important for children to remain hydrated whilst at school and we encourage the children to bring water bottles to school which can be kept in the classroom during the day. The water bottles do need to go home after school to be cleaned and refilled for the next day.

If your child has a packed lunch please provide them with a separate water bottle to keep in the classroom.

Homework

Literacy and Numeracy Homework will be sent home every Friday beginning on the 12th September. It will be sent home in their homework folders and this needs to be returned every Wednesday. Your child will be given a set of spellings as part of their homework. We would also ask that over the year you spend time with them at home learning to read and spell the year 1 high frequency words (a copy of the words has been sent home in your child's homework folder on the 12th September). Year One children also have a dialogue journal where we will write to the child and then your child can reply telling us what they have been doing perhaps over the weekend or for a special occasion. Please bring back these dialogue journals at home in your child's wrapping paper of choice. We will then put a name label on these in school.

Show and Tell

Your child's day is displayed on the class notice board by the door the children exit from at the end of the day.

This is a super opportunity for speaking and listening and we actively encourage the children to bring something meaningful to talk about, please do not bring toys in. We would rather it be something they have made, something educational, items from places they have visited or a story they would like to share.

Meet the Teacher

This will be held on **Wednesday 10th September at 6pm.**

Class assembly

We would love you to come along and join us for our assembly.

Elm class assembly will be held on **Thursday 23rd October.**

Beech class assembly will be held on **Thursday 16th October**



Finally, for your information we have a student teacher Miss Jess Wylie this term and she is undertaking her final block teaching placement in Elm class.

If you have any queries or concerns, however small, please do not hesitate to pop in to see us. Thank you for your ongoing support it is greatly appreciated.

Yours truly

The Year 1 Team.