

Chestnut Class Newsletter

Autumn Term: September – December 2024

Welcome back to school and welcome to Year One! It has been lovely to see all of the children in class looking so smart in our new King's Lander Primary Academy uniform. The class have settled really quickly; it is strange to think that they were only in Reception a few months ago. We are looking forward to a really enjoyable year, full of interesting topics, visitors to school and also some school trips. Your support will help to make sure that the children are happy in school and are in the best possible position to make good progress so remember that if you have any questions, or need a little help or advice – just ask! Be assured that we have your children's best interests at the heart of everything we do.

Maths, English and Phonics

As well as the daily one-hour Maths lesson, the children will complete a short arithmetic task during registration. In lessons this term we will be focusing on securing understanding of place value before moving on to methods of addition and subtraction. We will be looking closely at number formation as well, so be prepared for some homework that allows the children to practise the correct formation at home. We will also be focusing on key facts and skills daily during maths mastery sessions in the afternoon. The children will be using Rekenreks (like an abacus) to support their understanding of number even further.

The stimulus for our English work at the start of this term is a beautiful picture book - "Old Bear" by Jane Hissey. We will be completing a range of drama, paired talk, group and class work to work towards our final writing outcome of a 'finding' story. The children in Year 1 and 2 have been assessed for their phonic ability and grouped in the best possible way to support their learning at their specific stage. Phonic lessons take place 3 times per week in which children learn a new letter sound, review sounds that are already known and read words containing known sounds. Children will also read a phonetically decodable book in class and then bring a copy of it home each week. Remember, they will have read this book a number of times in class and should be quite confident when reading to you at home. It is extremely important that you listen to your child read as often as possible and talk about their book with them. I will be holding some phonics parents' sessions later this term to provide some help and advice on this.

Science

Our Science topic this half term is The Human Body. The children will be learning about the names and purpose of body parts and thinking about what our senses are and how we use them. Year 1 are extremely lucky to be the first KS1 class following the HEP Science scheme that has been very successful in the Juniors.

History and Geography

We begin this term by studying the life of Queen Elizabeth 2nd, thinking about her early life as a princess, her role during World War 2 then how she became Queen unexpectedly young and how she served and became Great Britain's longest serving monarch. In Geography we will be thinking about cities and the countryside, what are the differences between them and what it is like to live there.

Computing

We will have specific computing lessons on a half termly cycle with an initial focus on internet safety, before moving onto developing an understanding what a computer is, and what it can do.

P.E.

There will be two PE sessions every week for Year 1 children: Monday (indoor PE with Mrs. Murray) and Tuesday (outdoor PE with community sports). This term we will be working on ball skills and practising fundamental skills like jumping and landing, throwing and catching. Please send in a PE bag with both kits in each Monday. We will send them home each Friday. Please make sure that all kit is clearly labelled with your child's name; this will prevent pieces of kit, and uniform, from going missing.

Design and Technology

This term our DT topic will be healthy eating, resulting in making smoothies. Children will learn how to distinguish fruits and vegetables, thinking about how these grow and experimenting with combining flavours to create a tasty smoothie!

Music

All children in Year Two will follow the Charanga music scheme of work. Through these structured lessons they will learn about beat, rhythm, pitch and volume as well as learning how to comment on their enjoyment of musical pieces through a variety of songs.

RE

We are learning what it means to be a Christian, what Christians believe and where they worship. This will lead into how Christians celebrate special and sacred times in Autumn 2 which will lead to us reviewing the Christmas Story of Jesus' birth.

My Happy Mind

We are very excited to be launching our new mental health education programme 'My Happy Mind' this year! Through weekly assemblies and lessons children will gain a greater understanding of how their brain works and how it can affect how we think, feel and react. We will be learning techniques to help calm our minds and express our thoughts and feelings effectively. Hopefully your child will come home using words such as 'amygdala' and 'Pre-frontal Cortex' as well as teaching you 'Happy Breathing' techniques.

Homework

Reading- it is hugely important that you or another adult reads at home with your child as often as possible. We recommend 5 days a week. Phonics reading books will be changed on a weekly basis but are to be read more than once at home. Remember that reading to your child is also very important at this age so that they learn about pace and expression through listening to more confident readers

Additional Tasks- Your child will also be given a paper piece of homework every Friday. This will often be maths based but may link to other subjects such as History, Geography or Science. The homework can be handed in any day but must be in by the following Friday. If homework is not completed by Friday then your child will be expected to complete it in school during their playtime or lunch hour.

As always, please come and see us if you have any questions, or anything you would like to discuss. We are available to you after school every Monday, or you can always make a more suitable appointment at the school office. Thank you for your continued support and let's look forward to a fantastic year!

Mrs. Murray, Mrs. Monaghan, Mrs. Lambert