



Year 1
Autumn Term 2017
Curriculum News letter
Class Teachers:

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Teaching assistants:

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to a brand new school year and a big welcome to Year One. We are looking forward to the year ahead and getting to know your children. The information below relates to your children's learning, routines and some dates for your diary.

In **English** there will be cross-curricular links with our topic 'Woodland Wonder'. We will be using the story 'Bog Baby' in English. The children will take part in learning through play and focussed activity based lessons. The children will also be introduced to different genres of writing, including stories with predictable patterned language, stories with familiar settings, poetry and non fiction information texts. The children will be developing their independent writing skills, forming simple sentences with a focus on basic punctuation (full stops and capital letters).

Phonic groups will take place every morning, following the Ruth Miskin scheme. These sessions will focus on learning sounds and blending. Your child should continue to practice their phonics at home as much as possible.

Children will participate in Guided Reading sessions with their teachers once a week (reading days to be confirmed by teachers). Books will be sent home in book bags, please ensure it is returned the following week on your child's reading day. Any feedback or comments regarding your child's reading are always welcomed. Reading groups will commence in week 3.

Children will explore Speaking and Listening skills through a variety of role play and freeze frame activities linking to our core English texts. Children will also have the chance to present to their classes during 'Show & Tell' time (class teachers to confirm specific days/rotas).

In **Maths** we will be working on counting, reading and writing numbers to 100, exploring measurement using non-standard units (length, weight, capacity), beginning basic addition and subtraction within 20 and recognising language relating to time and dates. The children will explore their mathematical learning using a variety of resources including number lines, cubes and counters.

In **Science** we will have a termly topic and also a focus throughout the year. Our science focus throughout the year is 'Seasonal Change'. We will be identifying seasonal change and daily weather patterns across the United Kingdom. The children will be naming different types of weather and linking them to the seasons. We will be looking the changes throughout a

season. We will be going on learning walks to look for signs of seasons using observational skills – taking photos of the same scene/object over the year to create a nature timeline. Children will have a chance to explore the natural world and objects, using our fantastic Spinney as an engaging learning resource. Each classroom will create a space for a 'nature table'. Children are encouraged to bring in any interesting natural objects they find while out and about (e.g. conkers, pine cones, leaves etc...) to share and discuss with the class. Please encourage them to choose their favourite conker or leaf from their collection as we can sometimes create our own forest!!!

Our termly topic for **Science** will be 'Animals including humans.' The children will learn all about the different types of animals including carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. They will learn how to identify different groups of animals such as amphibians, fish, birds and mammals. We will of course be taking a peak in the spinney to see what animals we can find.

Children will have the opportunity in **Art** activities to practise drawing, painting, printing, sculpture and other art & craft techniques. In particular they will be using a range of materials from the outdoors to link in with our 'Woodland Wonder' topic.

In **PSHE** (Personal, Social and Health Education) we will be looking at 'new beginnings'. This theme focuses on developing the children's understanding, knowledge and skills in the four social and emotional aspects of learning: empathy, self awareness, social skills and motivation.

In **PE** our focus for this half term will be jumping and landing in Gymnastics and ball skills in Games.

It is essential that children have their PE kits in school everyday. This includes a Rhodes Avenue T-shirt (available from the school office), shorts, jogging bottoms, a warm top and appropriate footwear. All PE uniform should be clearly labelled. Please also ensure you're your child's PE bag has their named clearly written on the front. Children will be asked to remove or cover earrings and tie long hair back before taking part in their PE session.

In **Music** the children will learn to use their voices expressively and creatively by singing songs and speaking chants and rhymes. This will happen both in class and at our weekly singing assembly. Children will also have the opportunity to play basic instruments (percussion), exploring the different sounds and rhythms they can make individually and as part of a group. There will be an opportunity to join our infant choir. Class Teachers will be discussing this with their classes and everyone is welcome to go.

ICT will be an introduction to moving items using the mouse, and using a drop down menu. We will be visiting the ICT suite once a week in groups of 15. We will also have the opportunity to explore and use the i-pads during class activities.

Routines:

Children should line up outside their classroom from 8:50am. The teacher will open the classroom door at 8.55am.

Assembly is at 10.15 am – 10.30am. Break times are as follows:

Morning break – 10.30 – 10.45

Lunch break – 12.00 – 1.15

Afternoon break – 2.15 – 2.30

At the end of the day children can be collected from outside their classrooms.

If it is raining please use the inside classroom door.

Homework

Homework at Rhodes Avenue provides children with the opportunity to consolidate their classroom learning. The aim of homework is to develop pupil independence, resilience and resourcefulness. They should be able to complete their homework with minimal adult support. However if your child does struggle with the homework provided please do not hesitate to speak to the class teacher.

Guided reading sessions will take place once a week with reading days to be confirmed by teachers. Books will be sent home in book bags and should be returned the following week. Homework will begin after half term to allow the children to settle in.

Important Autumn term dates for your diaries:

Half term	20 th October – 30 th October
Individual photographs	7 th November
Parents' evenings	15 th and 16 th November
End of term	21 st December

Other Information

Educational visits are an important aspect of the Rhodes Avenue Curriculum. School visits and trips provide the opportunity to enrich learning outside of the classroom and inspire learning back at school. We aim to take the children on as many school trips as possible however we recognise this can become costly. We have decided this year to set a maximum limit on the amount we ask you to pay for trips over the whole year to £30. The school will make every effort to keep the cost of the educational visits to a minimal by using public transport or by visiting free exhibitions.

Healthy Schools

As part of school policy and our commitment to being a Healthy School, we will provide a piece of fruit for the children each day. Water will always be available during the school day however we are happy for you to bring into school a bottle of water clearly labelled. To celebrate birthdays, cake may be brought in to give at home time, as the children are leaving the classroom. Sweets are not allowed.

If you have any questions or queries, please do remember we are always here to help. Please speak to a member of the team to arrange a mutually convenient time.

We are looking forward to working with you,

Kate Bentley, Emily Gazzard, Joanne McGahon and Sophia Papworth.

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