

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to a new academic year. I hope that you have all enjoyed the sunny summer break !

Below I have outlined the broad learning themes for each subject this term

EYFS Maths	We will begin with basic maths principles involving matching and sorting before moving on to looking at the mathematical representations of numbers to 3. We will be learning number bonds off by heart (number bonds for 3 are $0+3=3$, $1+2$ and visa versa) as well as working with 2D shapes (circles and triangles)
Year 1 Maths	We will work with numbers to 100, learning how to write spell these numbers in words and digits, learning how to place numbers to 100 on number lines, using the terms greater than, less than and equal to to compare numbers and representing numbers using maths equipment. Later in the term we will look at 2D shape and begin a unit on addition and subtraction.
Year 2 Maths	We will be reviewing our understanding of numbers to 100 from year 1 , and how tens and ones are used to represent 2 digit numbers. We will extend our understanding of number lines and use these to help us represent and compare numbers within 100. Later in the term we will look at 3D shapes (pentagon, hexagon, octagon and heptagons) before starting a unit on two digit addition and subtraction.
EYFS Phonics	We will begin to learn phonics (letters and sounds) from the second week of term using our scheme : Essential Letters and Sounds. We will cover phase 2 this term which includes most letters of the alphabet and how we say these sounds (it is not the same as the 'nursery alphabet' . We will hold a phonics information event early this term to explain this to you. We have a daily phonics lesson every morning and so attendance is vital.
Year 1 Phonics	Year 1 recap the phase 5 phonics they covered at the end of last year and by the end of the term they will have covered all the phonics sounds taught at Key Stage 1. All the phonic sounds are rehearsed daily with a focus on using their sounds to read and spell increasingly complex words and sentences. The programme uses the rest of the year to cover the many alternative sounds used in the English language. Phonics lessons are daily and held in the morning after break – attendance is vital due to the pace of the learning. Children's understanding is assessed each lesson and interventions are put in place for children who have not yet grasped all the sounds.
Year 2 Spelling	During the phonics sessions for Year 1 and EYFS, Year 2 work on the spelling patterns needed for Year 2 using Spelling Shed. Children can also continue this practise at home using the log in in for EdShed in their reading record books. Any child who has not passed the phonics screening test in Year 1 will work alongside the Year 1 cohort in order to secure their phonics understanding.
EYFS English and phonics	Children begin with recognising and writing their name. We will also have daily story time to immerse children in story language and structure as well as non-fiction texts. Children are supported to listen for short periods and answer questions about the information they have been given. We introduce props and role play opportunities to help children understand the stories and make up their own endings to the stories they have heard. As phonics lessons progress, children are supported to blend 3 sounds together to form simple words which can be read and written. By the end of the term, those who are ready, will be writing short words and phrases.
Year 1 and 2 English	Children work together as a class to develop their story writing skills with work tailored to their ability. We will begin with some recap of grammar and letter formation in the first week of term before beginning a narrative based on The Song of The Sea. Later in the term, we will focus on some non-fiction writing a non- chronological report based on the book, Tell me a Dragon.. Year 1 will focus on making their sentences more

	<p>complex by using adjectives to describe. They will also secure the use of full stops, capital letters and question marks. Year 2 will focus on varying their sentence structures to interest the reader, use capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks independently. They will also begin to use a wider variety of conjunctions in their writing (and, because, but, so, etc)</p> <p>We will finish the 8 week term with a short poetry unit based on the poem, When I'm by Myself.</p>
Handwriting	<p>EYFS will focus on developing the finger strength to hold pencils with a tripod grip. They will experiment with drawing vertical and horizontal lines, curved lines and circles as a pre-cursor to writing. Those who are ready will learn how to form each letter of the alphabet correctly.</p> <p>Year 1 will continue to practice their letter formation, gradually reducing the size of their letters.</p> <p>Year 2 will begin to learn how to join their handwriting this year into a neat and legible writing style.</p>
Geography	<p>We will learn about seasonal changes and weather this term. We will explore the changing seasons and the names for our seasons this term. This will include a trip to Crickley Hill Nature Reserve in October. There we will join with our friends from North Cerney school and Withington to learn about the changes we see in Autumn as well as some work on parts of a tree. Please look out for details in the weekly newsletters.</p> <p>We will also look at weather and weather forecasts as part of our work on seasonal changes. We will learn about the four countries of the UK, their capital cities and how weather changes across the UK. Please look out for the knowledge organiser which will tell you the key facts to discuss with your child at home. EYFS will join the class for some of each session and will continue their learning about seasonal changes as part of their outdoor provision.</p>
Science	<p>Our topic this term is Our Body and Our Senses. In this topic we will learn the names of key parts of our bodies and what they do. We will also learn about our senses – sight, hearing, taste, smell and touch. We will learn how our body uses these senses to help us make sense of our world. Please refer to the knowledge organiser to discuss with your child which parts of the organiser they have learnt about each week.</p>
RE	<p>This term, Years 1 and 2 will complete a unit called What do Christians believe God is like ?. We will learn about the creation story in the Bible and other stories which tell us what Christians believe God to be like. Children in reception or EYFS will complete a unit on belonging. We will look at what groups we belong to and how we show we belong to a group. We will look at a Baptism ceremony as well as a non religious naming ceremony. We will also take part in a Harvest Festival service in the church.</p>
Computing	<p>We begin the term with E-Safety, a topic all children and adults must be aware of. We will have three sessions aimed at different year groups. These sessions give children the tools to keep them safe online and use age- appropriate videos from ThinkUKnow. Please take a look at this website and keep up to date with how to keep your child safe when using technology. Later in the term Year 1 and 2 will about how to use spreadsheets.</p>
PE	<p>PE will be held on Tuesday afternoons and Friday mornings. Mr J our sports coach will join us for these lessons. PE kit can be kept in school from Tuesday to Friday to save you bringing in kit each day.</p>
Design and Technology	<p>We will be learning how to construct moving pictures this term. We will learn about pivots, levers and sliders and make a page from a book with moving elements. EYFS will learn how to cut card accurately, draw shapes which can be cut out, use a hole punch, glue and split pins to make simple levers and pivots.</p>

RSE	We will be completing a Growing and Changing topic this term – looking at how we have changed since we were babies. We will look at how we care for babies, looking at how our skills have developed since we were babies and discussing who can help us when we are learning new skills. Later in the term we will look at good and bad surprises and secrets and what we do with these. We will also discuss safeguarding using the excellent resources from NSPCC (Your Pants are Private)
Music	This term we are looking at timbre and dynamics in musical compositions. The children will also learn to read and write with basic musical notation before composing and performing their own piece of music. EYFS will concentrate on learning and reciting nursery rhymes and songs as well as experimenting with the sounds made by various musical instruments.

Homework

Homework in Key Stage 1 is limited to that which has the most impact on your child's progress. Whilst we do not set written homework each week in Key Stage 1 please ensure that you support your child by

- Reading to your child each day (bedtime story – books can be borrowed from school)
- Hear your child read their reading book daily (5 mins a day) and record this in their reading record so that we can see where you have got to.
- Practice key maths skills as outlined in the KIRFS (Key Instant Recall Facts) sheet given out every term. These are the key skills needed by your child to make their maths lessons easier. Please practise them as often as you can – it could be practised in the car to school, counting as you go up and down stairs, 5 mins after dinner etc whatever works for you.
- Children in Year 2 are encouraged to login to their EdShed account to look at and practise their weekly spellings at home.
- Children in Year 2 are asked to learn their times tables for x2 x5 x10 over the course of this year . They each have a login and access to Times Tables Rock Stars website which provides valuable practise.
- Should parents want to support their child's maths skills further at home, the website Top Marks offers a good variety of maths games to support key skills (number bonds, counting, doubling, halving, pattern etc)

PE (Tuesday afternoon and Friday mornings)

Please come to school in school uniform and carry PE kit in a bag. We will get changed for PE in the classroom as learning to dress and undress independently is an important skill to be mastered. If your child has laces please ensure that they have learnt how to tie them independently. Please remember to label all PE kit (and school uniform) clearly with your child's name so that we can return the items efficiently when they are misplaced or left on the floor.

Morning snack

We supply a free fruit snack to all children in Key Stage 1 and EYFS every morning. There is usually a choice of 3 fruit or veg to choose from. If your child would prefer a snack from home, please adhere to our healthy schools policy and provide either

- A piece of fruit – cut up if needed so that they do not represent a choking hazard (grapes, cherries)
- Vegetable sticks
- Cheese
- Bread

Please try to avoid crisps, chocolate, biscuits, fruit rolls/strings. If bringing your own snack, we would appreciate any packaging be removed and the snack placed in a reusable container. This is to avoid litter in the playground.

Drinks

Every child is provided with a fresh cup of water and refills at lunchtime to have with their meal. Please also supply your child with a water bottle containing only water for periods other than lunch. Water is best for oral health and we promote the use of water or milk over juice. Children are helped to re-fill their water bottles with water from our dispenser when this is needed.

Children below the age of 5 are entitled to free milk at morning break. If your child is over the age of 5 and would like a drink of milk at break time please enquire with the school office about our Cool Milk scheme.

EYFS snack time and supervision

In line with new guidance this year, children in EYFS will be asked to sit and eat their snack and drinks at a supervised table following on from morning break time. This is so they can be supervised whilst eating and kept safe from choking hazards. Children in the rest of the school are encouraged to sit or stand still when eating snack during morning play times.

Curriculum information

In addition to this parents letter, you should receive information about key maths skills (KIRFS) to be learnt at home, an overview of what we are learning in Geography and Science (KS1 only) in the form of Knowledge Organisers as well as an invitation to the Meet the Teacher event. This event is a chance to see the weekly timetable as well as a chance to learn about school routines, expectations and assessments. The Meet the Teacher event will be advertised in the school weekly newsletters and is also an opportunity for you to ask any questions.

Attendance

Regular attendance in school is absolutely vital for all children in all year groups and particularly in the first few years of school when basic skills are being taught. The curriculum is extremely full with each lesson introducing a new skill, sound or concept. Regular daily attendance is critical to your

child's progress particularly in key skills (phonics, reading, writing and maths) . Catching up missed learning is difficult for your child. Please come and speak to us if you are struggling with regular attendance and we will do our best to support you.

We are aware that children do have times when they are too ill to attend school with heavy colds, stomach bugs and high temperatures. We encourage you to use your judgement to assess if your child is fit for school. Please rest assured that if your child becomes too unwell in school hours, we will contact you to pick them up so that they can rest and recover. Please remember that if your child has vomiting or diarrhoea they must be off school for 48 hours after the last episode. This is to stop stomach bugs spreading to others.

Concerns or queries

Please do come and chat to me with any concerns that you have. The earlier issues are brought to my attention, the easier they are to solve. I am available for a quick chat after school on Mondays, Tuesday and Thursdays generally. Please email the school office with concerns outside of these times and I will get back to you. Any urgent morning messages can be safely left with staff at the school gate or with the office as I am spending this time getting ready for your child's learning for the day.

With best wishes,

Mrs Spring