



The Blake CE Primary School

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Loving, learning and flourishing in community

13th September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 1: Curriculum Letter 2021/22

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our Year 1 families! We have been so impressed with how your children have settled into Year 1 and are looking forward to a happy and successful year together. We hope this letter will provide lots of important information about Year 1 but please do ask if there are questions left unanswered.

The Year 1 Team

1KH: Miss Hollowell (Class teacher) and Mrs Lee (Teaching Assistant)

1DF: Mrs Fuller (Class Teacher), Mrs Squire and Mrs Sollis (Teaching Assistants)

Your child may be taught by any member of the Year 1 team at different points in the year, particularly for phonics.

Times of the School Day

We open our doors at 8:55am and enjoy welcoming your children individually into the classroom. The doors are locked at 9.05am, after which time please make your way to the school office. Break time is from 10.20am – 10.40am and lunch starts at 12.00pm and finishes at 1:00pm. The Year 1 children eat their lunch in the hall during the first sitting, starting at 11:50am. We have an afternoon break at 2:45pm and the school day finishes at 3.15pm. The children have two opportunities for a snack in the school day, once in the morning and once in the afternoon. There is fruit available in school, or the children can bring in their own healthy snacks in a named pot or box. They must bring in a named water bottle which they can access and refill throughout the day.

Curriculum

Please find attached an overview of our curriculum for Terms 1 and 2, taking us up until Christmas. You will receive another letter at the start of Term 3 and Term 5 to outline the

learning for these terms. Our main topics this term are 'All about Me', 'Terrific Toys' and 'Christmas', all of which will provide your children with exciting learning opportunities while ensuring key Year 1 learning objectives are met.

Collective Worship

During the week we have an act of worship every day. On a Monday and Friday, this is currently in the school hall with Years 2 and 3. We end each day with a reflection time and the school prayer.

PE

Our PE slot for the week is a Friday afternoon. Please ensure PE kits are in school on this day. It is essential that all PE kit items are clearly named! Long hair needs to be tied back for PE and earrings need to be removed. If your child is wearing tights, please ensure they have socks in their PE bag. If there is a medical reason why your child cannot take part one week, please let us know.

We also enjoy 'Wake and Shake' and 'Movement Breaks' throughout the school day and wherever the weather allows, children will have learning time outside in the Year 1 garden.

Reading

Reading is an essential part of the Year 1 curriculum. While we read throughout the week during Phonics and English lessons, we aim to read with your child individually once a week, either with your child's teacher or one of the Teaching Assistants.

Reading with your child at home is essential for their reading development and confidence. We appreciate your support with this and would encourage you to ask questions and discuss the stories, to help develop their comprehension and enhance their enjoyment of their reading. Your child should read each book they bring home three times. The first read will include lots of decoding and will therefore be slower, the second read should be more fluent and during the third read they should be adding expression. When the book has been read three times, they can change their book for a new one. This can either be during their reading time with an adult, or if they need their book changing sooner, please let us know on the door in the morning.

We very much look forward to a happy and learning-filled year with your children. If you have any questions about the curriculum or any other aspect of life in Year 1, please do ask!

Kind regards,

Mrs Fuller, Miss Hallowell, Mrs Lee, Mrs Squire, and Mrs Sollis

Year One Curriculum Overview – Terms 1 and 2

English

Phonics

- Consolidate previously learned phonemes (sounds) as well as learning more digraphs (sounds made of two letters together, e.g. /ar/ in 'start') and trigraphs (sounds made of three letters together, e.g. /ure/ in 'pure').
- Use our knowledge of sounds to read real and non-real ('alien') words.
- Read and spell tricky (red) words that we can't sound out (e.g. 'come' and 'was').

English

We will be building our writing around a selection of exciting picture books. We like to keep the titles a secret at the beginning of each phase as this helps to develop and hold the children's interest and curiosity about the book.

We will retell, sequence and write sections of these stories. We will also explore altering aspects of these stories in order to re-tell and write our own versions based on the original stories.

We will be focussing on our independent sentence writing. This will include developing our use of capital letters and full stops, and using the correct letter formation and finger spaces.

Maths

Place Value

- Deepening our understanding of numbers to 20 through counting forwards and backwards, and representing numbers in different ways using a variety of resources, including Numicon, bead strings, ten squares and others.
- Ordering and comparing objects and numbers, including by using the symbols $<$, $>$ and $=$

Addition and subtraction

- Number bonds: learning which pairs of numbers total to make 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10. We will focus on a quick instant recall of these facts.
- Understanding parts and wholes and using a part-whole model to add and subtract.
- Deepening understanding of addition: using the + symbol, counting on and using number bonds.
- Deepening understanding of subtraction: using the - symbol, taking away, counting back and finding the difference.

Shape

- Recognising, naming and sorting 2D and 3D shapes.

Term 1

Topic - This is Me!

Geography

- Where do we live? Naming, describing and comparing places we know.
- Learning about the UK, the four countries within the UK and the seas that surround it.

Science

- Identifying, naming, drawing and labelling the basic parts of the human body.
- Learning about our senses and know which body part is associated with each sense.

Art

- Painting self-portraits using mirrors to carefully study our faces.
- Printing using parts of our body
- Creating our own pieces of art using a range of materials and different media across the term.

RE

- Our Big Question for this term is: 'Is everybody special?' We will be exploring the concept of 'belonging', by learning the parable of 'The Lost Sheep' and finding out about Christian Baptism.

PE

- Core skills - throwing, catching, jumping and jumping.

Music

- Learning the differences between pulse, rhythm and pitch and learning how to rap!

Term 2

Topic - Terrific Toys!

History

- Sorting toys from 'then' and 'now' and beginning to place in chronological order.
- Describing similarities and differences between toys, both old and new.
- Asking questions about toys and games from the past.

Design and Technology

- Designing and creating our own sock puppets and using them in a puppet show.

PE

- Traditional playground games

Topic - Christmas

RE

- Our Big Question for this term is: 'Is Christmas just about the presents?' We will be exploring the nativity story and discussing what else makes Christmas special.

Art/Design and Technology

- Designing and making Christmas cards
- A variety of Christmas crafts

Music

- Singing Christmas songs and learning some off by heart.

Ongoing throughout Terms 1 and 2

Values

Each month, we focus on a value as a whole school.

In Terms 1 and 2, our values will be: Caring, Responsibility, Trust and Humility.

PSHE

- What makes a good learner?
- What makes a good friend?
- Emotional literacy

ICT

We will be working on iPads and focusing on the skills of logging on independently and working our way around the secure Purple Mash site.

Science - Seasons

Throughout the year, we will explore what changes happen in the world across the four seasons, through observations, discussion and art. The children will also look at the length of the day and the varying weather conditions.

Special days

Harvest

We will learn about and celebrate Harvest with the rest of the school.

Bonfire Night

We will celebrate fireworks through art, music and in our writing, as well as learning about fireworks safety.

Remembrance Day

We will discuss why we mark Remembrance Day and look at photos of the War Memorial in Witney.