

Year 1 Curriculum Update - Autumn 2021

Dear Year 1 Parents/carers

Welcome back to the start of a new Autumn Term at The Westgate School! We can't wait for all the adventures to come in Year 1 as we continue on our learning journey.

Colleagues in Year 1

Beech Class Teacher - Miss Lucy Collins

Rowan Class Teachers - Mrs Laura Whincup

Beech Class TA - Miss Christie Goodfellow

Rowan Class TA - Mrs Carolyn Thomson

Topic (including science, geography and history)

Our overarching topic this first half term is 'Into the Woods'. We will begin our time in Year 1 with a science-based topic about woodland areas, focusing specifically on those in our local environment. We will be learning about, and investigating, different types of plants - including flowers and trees, their parts and how they begin to grow. This will lead on to some beautiful art work opportunities with leaves and other natural materials including; printing, collage, rubbings and observational drawing.

Alongside our topic learning, we will be immersing ourselves in woodland-based books: 'The Gruffalo', 'I want my hat back' and 'Little Red Riding Hood', which will all be the inspiration for developing our own narrative writing. We will also be doing some non-fiction writing by forming instructions to make Snake a log-pile house!

During Year 1, the children will learn about seasonal changes and we will be thinking about our changing seasons all year, alongside how this impacts the weather. We would be grateful if you could notice these changes with your children at home too.

Exploring and Learning time is a big part of our topic, as this allows children to explore their personal interests in a different ways and gives them an ownership over their learning.

After Half Term, we will move on to our new topic 'Superheroes'. We begin this with 'Supertato!' as our key text, before moving onto learning about people who help us and comparing them to those from the past (such as Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole).

Reading

Reading is at the heart of our curriculum at The Westgate School. The children participate daily in a range of reading activities. These include reading comprehension, shared reading and reading during topic. Children are heard reading by a teacher at least once a week, either 1:1, or during

Guided Reading sessions. We will change your child's books once they have been read with by an adult, but will begin to encourage them to become more independent and change their own books as and when they need to. Thank you for your continued support with reading at home as this makes such a difference.

Phonics and Spelling

We teach daily phonics lessons, which include teaching the children spelling patterns linked to their phonics sounds. Every Friday we will learn how to spell new common exception words. Once we have taught a phase of common exception words, we will send a copy of these home for the children to practise both reading and spelling them. Knowing these words by sight, and being able to instantly recall their spelling, will help your child to progress quicker in both their reading and writing.

Handwriting

Handwriting is taught daily, as we move from print to cursive in Year 1. We teach handwriting through families of letters which have a similar formation e.g. c and a. Alongside this we do 'Clever Fingers', which are activities that help the children to develop their fine motor skills.

Maths

In Maths we will be developing our fluency skills, such as counting forwards and backwards, becoming confident with our number system and understanding what one more or one less of a number is. We will be solving addition and subtraction problems and will start to understand how a whole number can be made up of two parts, including learning our number bonds to 10 and 20. Over the first half term we will explore 2D shapes, money and length through problem solving. In the second half term, Year 1 will begin to learn how to count in multiples of 2 and tell the time to o'clock. We would appreciate any practise of these skills at home!

PE

Both Year 1 classes have PE on Monday and Tuesday. These are taught by their class teacher. Please make sure that the children's kit is in school for these days. All items of their kit needs to be named and in a drawstring bag. (No rucksacks please!)

Library

Both Year 1 classes will go on a Monday

Please ensure that your child has their book ready to change on this day.

Music

In Year 1, we value music and singing as a central part of the children's learning. The children also have the opportunity to access instruments and performance resources during exploring and

learning time. Music will be part of our creative curriculum and will be embedded within topics. We will also teach music skills discretely learning about tempo, dynamics, pitch and much more!

RE

In the first half term, we will be studying the concept of 'Power', relating this to Hinduism. The children will reflect upon what 'power' means and how Hindu's represent this within their religion. In December, we will be studying the Christian Advent Wreath, talking about the getting ready for Christmas and revisiting the Nativity story through art.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHE)

This term we are looking at relationships, beginning with recognising and understanding feelings such as happiness, frustration and nervousness and what we can do when we experience these feelings.

A few Key Dates...

Monday 29th September - Individual photos

Monday 18th October - Deep Learning Day

Tuesday 16th November - Siblings photos

Friday 26th November - INSET day

Monday 29th November - INSET day

Friday 10th December - Deep Learning Day

Thursday 16th December - Class Christmas Parties

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The Year 1 Team