

Year 1 Curriculum Update

Dear Year 1 Parents

Welcome back to the start of a new Autumn Term at The Westgate School. The children are settling well in to their new year group and new Key Stage. We can guarantee that the learning will continue to be creative, challenging and inspiring for the children, with lots of rich experiences. We can't wait for all the adventures to come!

Staff in Year 1

Rowan Class - Miss Becca Phillips

Beech Class - Miss Hannah Spake

Learning Support Assistants across the Year Group - Mrs Rita Cottle, Mrs Sarah Scambler, Miss Isobel Hardy

Topic (including science, geography and history)

Our 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 such as 'The Gruffalo', 'I want my hat back' and 'Little Red Riding Hood', which will all be the inspiration for developing our own narrative writing. For non-fiction texts, we will be reading and writing instructions for making Gruffalo Crumble!

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 'Crash, Bang Wallop!'. We begin this with the story of 'The Enormous Turnip', before moving our learning onto Superheroes with texts such as 'Send for a Superhero' and 'Supertato!'. Through this topic we will continue with our learning about plants, with more of a focus on what happens under the ground - particularly looking at vegetables and how they grow. Year 1 will be given the opportunities to explore and investigate real life heroes such as nurses, doctors and fire fighters, thinking about how the professions have developed over time and why they are so important to have!

PE

Both Year 1 classes have PE on Monday and Thursday. These are taught by their class teacher. Please make sure that the children's kit is in school for these days. All items need to be named and in a drawstring bag. No rucksacks please because they don't fit in the shelves!

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!

Reading

We place reading in high importance 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. Please continue to work through the Common Exception word cards at home (tricky word flash cards) that were started in Year R. We will continue to send these home, and knowing these words by sight will help your child to progress quicker in their reading.

Library

Both classes visit our new library on a Tuesday; please ensure that your child has their book ready to change on this day.

Phonics and Spelling

We teach daily phonics lessons, which include teaching the children spelling patterns linked to their phonics sounds and also investigating how to spell common exception words. This will develop into daily spelling practise later in the year.

Handwriting

Handwriting is taught in daily discrete sessions as we are moving from print to cursive. We teach and writing in letter 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, enabling their handwriting to develop positively.

Music

In Year 1, we value music and singing as a central part of the children's learning. We will regularly enjoy learning new songs together, often which link to other areas of the curriculum. 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.

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 30th September - Individual photos

Monday 21st October - Deep Learning Day

Friday 25th October- Partners in Learning: Sharing Morning (8:40-9:00am)

Tuesday 19th November - Siblings photos

Friday 29th November - INSET day

Monday 2nd December - INSET day

Friday 6th December - Partners in Learning: Sharing Morning (8:40-9:00am)

Friday 13th December - Deep Learning Day

Tuesday 17th / Wednesday 18th December - KS1 Christmas Performances

Thursday 19th December - Class Christmas Parties

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

The Year 1 Team