

St Lawrence Year One Autumn Term 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

What an amazing start to the year the children have had! They are, each and every one, truly a great credit to you. Year One is a **big** change for them and it is a busy term, so you may find they are very tired some days. We are gradually introducing the children to a Key Stage One curriculum, slowly building up the expectations of activities which need to be done each day. I am trying hard to ensure that these activities remain experience and play based for as long as the children need. Therefore, we still have many elements of free-choice/play which will slowly decrease over the half term. Our learning will be linked to our topic, 'Castles', as much as possible. This is a history based topic, and will hopefully include a trip to Kenilworth Castle!

One big change in Year 1 is the introduction of our weekly Forest School sessions. These will take place on a Friday afternoon and will sometimes be at Bob's Farm. We will let you know in advance of these dates. Please ensure the children have waterproofs and wellies as we will go out in all weathers.

Detailed below are the areas we are covering this term and suggestions of how you can help at home. If you would like more information, please speak to me or see the school website, as there are detailed plans for each subject.

Subject	Information	How you can help
English	Phonics sessions are each morning (apart from Friday), specific spelling strategies will be taught throughout the year in lessons. Guided Reading (reading as a group/with the class) will be phased in throughout the week, as will 1-2-1 reading whenever possible. Children will experience a wide variety of writing and genres across the term and in Friday writing sessions. We are currently focusing on using capital letters, full stops, finger spaces and adding descriptive words to our writing. Throughout the term, we will be reading stories with predictable phrases and writing our own versions. In poetry we will be studying rhyming poems, identifying patterns and writing labels, captions and recounts. We will endeavour to link our learning to our Topic as often as possible, we have already begun focussing on 'Jack and the Beanstalk' with a look at the Giant's castle!	Please listen to your child read as often as possible and ask questions about the text. Help them to practice any sounds they have learnt in Phonics and ensure your child completes any homework set.
Maths	In Maths we have begun this term by becoming even more familiar with our numbers up to 20, identifying which are more than and less than 10, being able to order numbers and being able to sort objects into groups. We will continue to focus our learning on the place value of numbers for a few more weeks and then we will move onto addition and subtraction. Our maths remains as practical as possible and will happen both indoors and out. Homework each week will link to our learning in class.	Please ensure your child completes homework set each week as this will help secure their knowledge. Any practical activities, learning of number bonds, ordering will all further your child's understanding. Look out for KIRFs coming soon!
Science	We are studying 'Uses of Everyday Materials', being able to name and identify different materials and distinguish between the object and the material as well as grouping them with their properties. We will also be observing the seasonal changes during Autumn and Winter. We will be using our Forest school sessions to support this learning where possible.	Discussing what children have done in lessons, looking at the changes throughout the seasons and asking them to find an object made out of a certain material.

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Topic	This term, we are learning about castles. We will be finding out about important historical landmarks and events. The children will have opportunity to imagine life in a castle a long time ago, find out about the different jobs and roles people had in castles and name the different parts of a castle. We will have a trip to Kenilworth, a beautiful local historical site. We will be linking our English work to topic as much as possible, ensuring real depth of coverage and learning. Our topic work will also encompass learning in Art and DT.	Discussion with the children about their own trips and experiences of castles.
Computing	We will be using laptops and tablets, sometimes in specific computing lessons and across the curriculum to develop our control, knowledge of being safe on computers (online safety) and for simple programming. Miss Shepherd will begin working with the children on this on a Tuesday afternoons using BeeBots (programmable technology).	If your child has access to a computer using the mouse to control objects and talking to them about how to be safe online.
PE	This term, we have PE on a Monday with KITS Academy and will be covering a wide range of sports skills. We will sometimes have other lessons during the week in order to cover Dance, but we also cover much of our learning in PE as part of our Forest School learning on a Friday.	Please make sure your child has an appropriate PE kit in school for these sessions.
RE	The topics 'Who is a Sikh and how do they live?' and a Christian unit on 'Incarnation' will be covered this term. We have already begun the year by reflecting on special places as part of an RE day. The children enjoyed reflecting on their own journeys to special places, making links with religious pilgrimages. Next, we will move onto finding out about the Sikh religion. Each week, one of our class assemblies will focus on our RE learning too.	Discuss with your Child what they have been learning in class about Christians and other religions.
Music	This half term we are exploring different sounds through a range of songs, both singing and listening and identifying sounds around us. We will be using a range of instruments to create different pieces and varying the duration of the sounds. Throughout the year, we will study different artists in both Music lessons and through the curriculum.	Ask children to share the different songs they learn, listen and identify different sounds and the different durations. If you have the opportunity, listen to a variety of music styles.
PSHE	In these lessons we will be discussing 'New Beginnings' with Miss Shepherd focusing on a new school year, how this can be quite scary for some, class rules and what we can do to make others feel comfortable in a new setting.	Any discussions with your child about what we have been talking about in class.

Please see the reading information booklet for our routines for reading in school and our home/school links. Reading books will be changed every week on **Mondays**. Books must be in school on a Friday for quarantining prior to changing. Please fill in the Reading Record each time you read with your child. We want to know about 'real' books too! Homework is given out on a **Friday** to be completed by Wednesday. This will soon be available via Google Classroom, look out for further information on this coming soon. Should your family need to self-isolate due to Covid-19, there will also be activities on the school website to support home learning on the first day of absence. For all following days of absence, home learning will be provided to you via email or Google Classroom. This will be for Covid related absence only.

These are unusual times and there is a huge amount of information to take in when starting a new phase of school, so please do not hesitate to drop me an email to discuss any worries or concerns you or your child may have. It is currently difficult to have face to face meetings and discussions and so my 'virtual door' is always open and I really will do my best to help. My email address is sfoster@stlawrenceprimaryschool.co.uk.

Best Wishes and welcome to Year One!

Sorrel Foster