

Welcome to Diamond Class!



Learning Overview Autumn Term 2023: Year One

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Year One! We hope you all had a wonderful Summer and that you enjoyed the holiday time with your families. May we take this opportunity to say thank you for all of the wonderful cards and gifts that we received at the end of last term. This was really very kind, and we really appreciated your thoughtful messages. We have all been really impressed with how quickly the children have settled back in to school life, and the heightened pace of Year 1. The purpose of this learning overview is to give you useful information relating to your child's learning this half term.

Literacy:

This half term our literacy is closely linked to our topic "Bears". We will be going on a "Bear Hunt", writing our own Bear Hunt stories, baking biscuits and writing cooking instructions and creating Bear posters, amongst lots of other fun activities!

Reading:

Reading in Year 1 takes place in a variety of ways. Once a week the children will participate in small group guided reading sessions led by a teacher. These sessions focus on comprehension skills and more advanced reading strategies and not all children will take part in these straight away. Those that do not have a guided read will be heard by individually by a teacher once a week. All children will also read individually with a teaching assistant or parent helper once a week. Your child will always have two reading books in their book bag and we will be changing these weekly (usually on a Wednesday). One helps your child to learn high frequency words and the other closely links with the phonics lessons that your child participates in, in class. In order to improve fluency, your child will need to read both of their books a couple of times.

Please ensure that your child reads their books from the school scheme regularly (preferably daily) to an adult at home. Regular reading at home is extremely beneficial.

Tortoise Words: Your child's tortoise words will still be attached to the back of the reading diary and need to be practiced daily. Your child may have completed all the tortoise stages 1-30. Reading the High Frequency words is a huge challenge, so congratulations to the children who have already completed this. The temptation is to move on swiftly through the tortoise words; we are aiming for fluency when reading these words, so please practice not only the latest Tortoise words sheet, but also occasionally revisit the 'old' ones too - they are easily forgotten! Prizes will be given for reaching 10, 20 and 30 Tortoise words.

Reading Diary: Please ensure that you date and sign the reading diary and feel free to write a comment when you read with your child: daily reading support is invaluable. There is also a column to show when your child has spent time on NUMBOTS (see below). We ask that you keep your child's books and diary in their book bag and bring it to school every day whether your child has read at home or not.

Phonics:

This term we are beginning to learn the sounds in from level 5, so you will soon be receiving a new set of phonics cards to practice. Again, the importance of daily practice cannot be underestimated, and please remember to also recap the 'old' cards too, to continue to improve fluency in your child's reading and writing.

Maths:

This half term we are looking in depth at numbers from 1-10. We will be continuing to learn about addition and subtraction and looking at number bonds to 10. We will also be developing the children's fluency, reasoning and problem solving skills. In addition to learning taking place in school, your child will continue to have a NUMBOTS account for them to access at home, with certificates given out in school as your child completes a level. The log-in details for your child will be attached to their reading diary and an additional explanatory letter will be put in their book bag. NUMBOTS improves the children's fluency skills which are critical for good progress in mathematics. Please ask your child to access their account, ideally 5 times a week for about 10 minutes.

Topic:

Our topic this half term is "Bears". We are learning about our senses and will be using our senses on our Bear Hunt in the woods. We will also be learning about physical and human geography and finding about Biscuit Bear's holiday as he tours around the UK. We will be using nature in our art and we will be looking at the artist Mondrian and using his techniques in our own artwork.

P.E.:

P.E. lessons this year will be on Tuesday afternoons each week, and on alternate Fridays. Please send your child into school in their P.E. clothes **every** Tuesday and Friday. If your child wears earrings, please try to remember to take them out for the P.E. days.

Water bottles and snacks:

Please could you continue to make sure that your child brings in a **named** bottle of **water every day**. Please be aware that other drinks, such as juice and squash, are not permitted. We would like to request that water bottles are not put in the book bags - a little leak goes a VERY long way. All children in our class continue to be able to have a free piece of fruit every day. If you wish to provide an extra snack please remember our school policy only allows fresh or dried fruit.

Miscellaneous extras:

Our learning takes place as much outdoors as it does indoors, so as the weather becomes colder and wetter, please ensure your child comes to school in a warm waterproof coat so that they can always access our outdoor learning environment. Please name gloves, scarves and hats too! Please also make sure that girls' hair is ALWAYS tied back for health and safety reasons. We always stress that hair is not to be fiddled-with, but sometimes very long hair is very tempting, so plaits are perhaps an option!

As ever, if you have any questions as term progresses, or would like to discuss anything with one of us, please come in and see us at the end of the school day, or come to the office to make an appointment if it is more convenient.

Thank you for your support: we are very much looking forward to working with you and your child this year!

Miss Moore and Mrs Rose

Dates for your diary

Early Reading meeting (aimed at YR parents but Y1 parents are welcome): Thursday 5th October at 2:30pm

Parents evenings: 17th October or 19th October