

Curriculum Newsletter Autumn 1 2017 – Year 1

Our topic this half term is:

‘Why are humans not like tigers?’

Can I firstly welcome you all back from a long summer holiday and to your child’s new class at St Ann’s Catholic Primary School. We have all had a fantastic first week as the children have explored their new surroundings. I’m sure your children have enjoyed it just as much as we have.

Each half Term we will have a new topic focus, this half term we will be learning all about ‘Why are humans not like Tigers?’ Firstly, we will identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body, as well as becoming ‘sense detectives’ he children will explore which part of the body is associated with each sense, performing simple tests investigating each of the five senses. The children will gather and record data to help in answering questions to solve a puzzle. Next, we will turn our attention to grouping animals to identify and name a variety of common animals including, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals, describing and comparing common animals. Finally, we will become zookeepers and identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and classify by sorting animals into categories.

In Year 1 your child’s learning will include handwriting practise. Your child will be taught how to form their letters correctly using cursive handwriting. They will also take part in a separate lesson for spelling, grammar and punctuation – this half term in Grammar we will be looking at letters names as well as the sound they make, capital letters and nouns (singular, plural, common and proper). During the punctuation lesson we will be looking at the Full Stop and finally in the spelling lesson we will be learning how to spell the days of the week, months of the year and number names to 10.

As you are aware your child will be following the Mathematics Mastery programme of study this half term we will be working with numbers within 10 and adding and subtracting within 10.

Reading in year 1 will follow the same pattern as in the Early Years, your child will participate in guided reading daily and bring home a reading book each week which will be changed on a Friday. I cannot stress enough the importance of reading, learning to read is about listening and understanding as well as working out what is printed on the page. Through hearing stories, children are exposed to a wide range of words. This helps them build their own vocabulary and improve their understanding when they listen, which is vital as they start to read. It’s important for them to understand how stories work too. Even if your child does not understand every word, they will hear new sounds, words and phrases which they can then try out, copying what they have heard.

As children start to learn to read at school, you can play an important role in helping to keep them interested in books. Find out what interests them, help them to find books that will be engaging and fun, and spend time reading the books they bring home from school together.

Religious Education plays a key role in the children's learning and the topic this term is 'Myself' plan a wide range of activities linked to this area.

The most important part of this half term is that your child settles into their new class. To support them with this we will be adopting the Early Years Foundation Stage approach to learning therefore your child will have the opportunity to revisit their key learning within the learning environment at different points during the day.

As you may have already heard from your child we have a class mascot 'Listening Lion' He will choose a child each week to come home with for the weekend. This activity is to encourage the children to talk within a group and develop the skills needed to ask questions. He will come with his own book for the children to record their adventures in; the children will be asked to write a few sentences to explain what adventures they have been getting up to with Listening Lion.

P.E will be on a Thursday afternoon and as part of the activities linked to 'Finding out Friday's' so please ensure that your child has their kit in school on this day. Please note all children will come home in their P.E. kits on a Thursday.

In Year 1 your child will participate in 'Finding out Friday's', on Fridays your child will need to come to school dressed appropriately for the weather, but please make sure your child is wearing their school jumper or cardigan on this day. Your child will participate in lots of outdoor learning which will focus around their study in science, history and geography. The children's learning will be displayed in a floor book for everyone to see.

Homework – REMEMBER - YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT

In year 1 Children will be expected to read at home daily and their reading records signed and returned daily to school.

Spellings – Children will a sheet with all this half terms spellings on. The children will learn the spellings for the appropriate week, the aim is for each child to go for GOLD – all children are expected to learn the bronze words, and have a go at the silver words with your encouragement the children should go for gold!! We will check the children's progress each week.

Phonics will be given out daily for your child to practise the new sound taught that day.

Finally, on alternate Fridays children will be given either literacy or maths homework which will be returned to school the following Thursday for marking.

Each child should bring a named water bottle into school each day so that they have access to fresh clean water throughout the day. If you have any further questions please come and talk to a member of staff. We will be happy to help you.

I am looking forward to a fun term of learning and laughter.

Best Wishes Mrs Brotherton - Class teacher