



Year 1 Autumn Term News 2023

Dear Year 1 Parents, Carers and Friends,

Welcome to Year 1! I hope that you all enjoyed the Summer break and I look forward to catching up with you all if I have not done so already. We have had the most wonderful start to the Autumn term and the children have settled in brilliantly. It really is a privilege to support your children in this next phase of their learning and I cannot wait to see what your children achieve throughout the year!

At the beginning of Year 1, the children are learning to transition from the play-based approach used in the Foundation Stage to a more formal teaching style. In order to support this in the Autumn term, the children are provided with learning opportunities which are developmentally appropriate to them as a year group. They are given 'Discovery Time', which involves them exploring their classroom and choosing their own resources to guide their own learning. High-quality resources and teacher modelling is also provided so children's learning can be further extended through their interests. In addition to this, the children also engage in English, Maths and Topic inputs and activities to give them access to a range of learning across the Year 1 Curriculum.

In order to promote a positive learning environment, we will be creating our own 'Class Charter' together and using our 'Road to Success' to encourage engagement in learning and positive friendships. We also use Monster Points for recognition of this. We will continue to praise effort and achievement in all areas and hope to have lots of 'Legends' each week!

Our Year 1 Learning support assistants this year will be: Miss Gilroy, Miss Fenney and Miss Coelho.

Curriculum

Our main topic this term will be all about **Toys**! As part of our topic, we will be exploring the history of toys and comparing these to some of the modern toys of today. To create some initial excitement around this unit, we would like children to bring in their favourite toy from home to show and describe to the class (please avoid electronic toys!). We will be linking lots of areas of the curriculum to this topic, including creating our own class toy museum in the provision, exploring materials and their properties of different toys, drawing and painting their own teddy bears in Art and making sock puppets in Design and Technology. We will also be visiting the Jersey museum to explore the old toys and make comparisons between the past and today. The children will get the chance to play with real toys from the Victorian era and dress up as they would have in those days.

Here is an overview of our **subject focuses** for the term:

English - As a school, we have recently adapted our teaching in English to a text driver-based approach. We use high-quality texts to hook the children in whilst teaching specific reading, writing and spoken language objectives. This half term we will be using 'Lost in the Toy Museum: An Adventure' by David Lucas and the end outcome will be the children writing their own news reports about the toys that have gone missing in the museum.

Our English lessons will provide so many fantastic opportunities for learning here, including giving the children time to participate in discussions about the characters and take part in role play scenarios. They will also describe the key events in the story and will be encouraged to ask questions and express their opinions about the texts they read. In their writing, the children will be taught how to say a sentence out loud before writing it, use capital letters, full stops and finger spaces correctly.

After the half term break, we will be using '**Traction Man**', by Mini Grey. This story links to our Toys topic as well and the children will explore using different kinds of words to add excitement and suspense to their writing, producing their very own comic strip.

In addition to our English sessions, the children will also take part in four guided reading sessions a week, daily phonics and guided writing sessions, regular visits to the library where they are able to read and explore high quality texts as well as handwriting and spelling practice.

Maths - In Maths, we will begin by focusing on numbers to 20 and exploring number bonds using part, part whole models. Through 'Maths no Problem', the children use and explore the concrete resources in our Maths area during discovery time as well as having regular whole class and small group learning opportunities. Counting, ordering numbers and finding one more and one less than given numbers will be a focus to begin with. We will then begin to explore addition and subtraction as well as finding the difference between two numbers.

Science - As part of our Toys topic, our Science focus will be on materials and their properties. The children will explore different toys and the materials they are made from as well as looking at toys from the past and thinking about why certain objects are made from certain materials based on their properties.

Physical Education - This term our PE is going to be led by Jersey Sport Coaches. In these lessons, children will develop their gross motor skills, balance, coordination, and stamina which are the foundations for any sport. Information about after school opportunities has been sent to you. Our PE days this term are **Wednesday and Thursday**. Please ensure children come to school wearing their PE kit on these days.

PSHE - At Grands Vaux, we are continuing to use the JIGSAW PSHE scheme. Jigsaw aims to equip children for life, helping them really know and value who they are and how they relate to other people in this ever-changing world. This half term we focus on 'being me in my world.' In the second half term, we learn all about 'celebrating difference'.

Computing - This term, we will focus on online safety and developing in our word processing skills. We will also be exploring how to programme algorithms through the use of Beebots and Scratch Junior. The children will use the ICT suite, laptops and I-pads to enhance their learning in other areas of the curriculum.

Art, Design and Technology - In Art we will mainly be focusing on colour mixing and creating different tones and shades. This will lead onto children creating their own teddy bear illustrations and water colour paintings.

For Design and Technology, we have a 'Workshop Area' where the children are supported in their design and making skills. They are provided with a range of resources and how to use these correctly in the provision. Once the children are finished, they are encouraged to talk about what they have made and think of ways they could improve next time. The children will also be making their sock puppets later on in the term.

History and Geography - In History, the children will be learning about the past through our Toys topic. We will visit the Jersey museum to explore the old toys and make comparisons between the past and today. The children will get the chance to play with real toys from the Victorian era and dress up as they would have in those days.

RE - In RE this term, the theme will be the Creation story and we will mainly explore Christianity and God.

Music - We will follow Charanga focusing on listening to different music and making music using instruments. We will be listening to songs and chants to create a steady rhythm.

Home - Learning

Home learning folders- All children will be given a home learning folder. Please keep the spelling folder, reading diary and reading books together so they do not get lost. Home learning folders need to be brought to school every day.

Your child will bring home a levelled reading book and a library book each Friday. They must be returned the following Friday so that new books can be given out. The levelled book is for your child to read to you, the library book is for you to read with them and enjoy looking at together. Your child will be given a reading diary. This will be filled out at school once a week when your child has read with an adult. Please ensure you fill this in each time your child reads at home and keep it in your child's home learning folder.

Please continue to encourage your son/daughter in their reading at home (at least 10 minutes, five times a week) and enjoy spending time looking at books together. Please also take every opportunity to discuss the text with your child, inviting them to retell the story to you in their own words. This will really aid their comprehension skills. There is also much benefit in you reading to your son/daughter books that they cannot access at word level themselves. This will give them opportunities to access vocabulary that they would not be able to read independently.



Each time your child reads a book at home, please fill out the reading road in this folder. Once children have read 10 books, this achievement is celebrated by children receiving a 'Legend' certificate in class assembly.

Spellings - Throughout the year, the children will be given sets of sight words to learn how to spell - these are called the 'Harder to Read and Spell words'. These are common words which they will use in their writing a lot, and it is important that they are able to spell them correctly. They will also need to read these words. Most of these words are also not phonetically plausible (can not be sounded out) therefore they will need to be practiced regularly in order to be committed to memory. Children will also be given a weekly spelling sheet on a Friday in their spelling folder which they should learn at home ready for the following Friday.

Snacks and water bottles - Please ensure that your child has fruit or vegetables and a bottle of water each day. Squash, fruit juices, fizzy drinks etc are not allowed. Water bottles are especially important in the warm weather. Please can snack pots be named.

Other - Please ensure that jumpers, cardigans, PE tops, book bags and lunch boxes are all **clearly labelled**.

I am looking forward to an exciting term ahead, getting to know you and your children and being part of their learning journey.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

My email address is p.dix@grandsvaux.sch.je

Yours sincerely,

Miss Dix