



Year 1 Spring Term News 2024

Dear Year 1 Parents, Carers and Friends,

Happy New Year and a very warm welcome back! Since returning to school, the children have thrown themselves back into their learning and they have particularly enjoyed the special change in weather outside! The rest of the Spring term looks to be a very exciting one; filled with a new topic (The Great Fire of London) and lots of activities for your child to develop in all areas of their learning and we look forward to supporting them in the next phase of their Year 1 learning journey.

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

English - In our English sessions, we are continuing to embrace a text driver-based approach - the children are loving this style of learning! This approach involves using high-quality texts to hook the children in whilst teaching specific reading, writing and spoken language objectives. Over the Spring term, we will be looking at a range of texts, including 'Flashlight' and 'Toby and The Great Fire of London' and our English sessions will cater for a range of activities such as spoken language discussions, creating role plays and writing for a purpose. In addition to this, children will be learning how to use connectives such as 'and' and 'because' and building up their vocabulary banks to create exciting sentences. They will also engage in instruction writing (for a bread roll recipe) and diary writing around their class topic on The Great Fire of London. In addition to our English sessions, the children will also take part in daily phonics inputs and individual reading sessions. We will continue to revisit the sounds from the other phases here as well as introduce more Phase 5 sounds to the children.

Maths - In Maths, we will be further exploring the 'Maths No Problem' scheme, where we will be looking at place value and addition and subtraction within 20, shapes and patterns, length and height this half term. After half term, we will focus on numbers to 40, solving word problems as well as multiplication, division and fractions.

PSHE - Using the 'JIGSAW PSHE' scheme, the children will be learning about some very interesting topics including their 'Dreams and Goals' and being a 'Healthy Me'.

Science - In Science, we will be exploring humans (parts and senses), healthy eating and working scientifically. We will focus on identifying what we use our bodies for, and what our senses are used for.

Physical Education - In our PE sessions, we have a Jersey Sport coach who caters each session to developing in specific physical skills. The children love these sessions and often ask when PE is next! Our PE sessions are on a Wednesday and Thursday so please ensure that children come to school dressed in their PE kits on these days.

Forest School - Forest School sessions will be starting back up for the Year 1 children and these will take place every Thursday morning, starting from Thursday 11th January 2024. Given the ethos of Forest School, it takes place whatever the weather, so children must be dressed appropriately. Therefore, on Thursdays, please ensure that your child comes into school in old clothes and shoes/wellies that you are prepared to get dirty. They will also need to bring in a change of clothes (their PE kit for PE later on that day), a waterproof coat and a change of shoes and socks, in case they need to change. If the children are not dressed appropriately, they may not be able to take part. The children are very excited for their next set of Forest School sessions!

Art, Design and Technology - In Art, we will be focusing on using crayon, charcoal and oil pastels as a medium and the process of blending and layering to create different effects such as silhouettes. These skills will help us to create pictures depicting scenes from The Great Fire of London. The children will also create a replica of a Tudor house using Papier Mache and other skills and techniques. In Design and Technology, we will be making our own bread rolls to link to the bakery in Pudding Lane - this will tie in well with our instruction writing in English also.

RE - Over the Spring term, we will be exploring the religion of Christianity through the key questions: 'What is the 'good news' Christians believe Jesus brings?' and then 'Why does Easter matter to Christians?' after the half term break.

History and Geography - This term, the theme of our topic is 'The Great Fire of London'. In History, we will be exploring a range of information sources, such as Samuel Pepys' Diary, to find out clues about the fire and, in Geography, we will be finding out where London is located in relation to Jersey.

Music - We will continue to follow the Music programme 'Charanga'. Our unit for Spring term 1 will be 'In the Groove', this song supports the teaching of different styles of music. Each week, the children will listen to a different style of the song. After half term, we will be looking at the unit, 'Round and Round'. We will also explore the dimensions of music (pulse, rhythm, pitch etc).

Trips - We are hoping to visit Pizza Express this half term to learn about listening to instructions and kneading dough. This trip also links well to our Science topic on identifying each of our senses and using these to explore.

Home Learning

In Year 1, homework consists of:

Reading - daily

Spellings - weekly

Homework will be set on a Friday and will consist of a levelled reading book, a library book and spellings. All children have been given a home learning folder to keep their spellings, reading diary and reading books in. Home learning folders need to now be brought into school every day so that children's reading logs can be used by staff at school.

Reading -It is the expectation that children read a small amount at home each day (at least 15 minutes, five times a week). While your child reads, actively listen and offer support when needed. Encourage them to sound out unfamiliar words, discuss the story and ask questions. In the reading log, please make a comment about their reading, highlighting any challenges or achievements you observed.

Reading Log: Your child should bring their reading log to school every day. Please ensure that whoever reads with your child records their reading in the log. This will help us monitor their progress and provide appropriate guidance based on their individual needs.

Spellings - Children will be given a weekly spelling sheet on a Friday which they should learn at home ready to be tested on the following Friday. Their spellings will consist of the first 100 sight words as well as key words such as days of the week, numbers etc. These are all words which they will frequently use in their writing and it is important that they are able to spell these correctly. 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.

Other -

Name Labels - Please ensure that coats, jumpers, cardigans, PE tops, book bags and lunch boxes are all clearly labelled - thank you.

Water and Snacks - Please ensure that your child has a named water bottle in school and a piece of fruit or vegetables for morning snack each day. Our healthy school initiative aims to ensure children are eating a healthy lunch. Please can you provide lunches **without chocolate** for this reason.

The Year 1 are looking forward to an exciting term ahead and continuing to be a part of your child's learning journey.

As always, if you have any questions or worries, please do not hesitate to contact me. The best way to get in touch is via email. My email address is p.dix@grandsvaux.sch.je

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Dix

