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An Oxford Diocesan  
 School

**Headteacher**  
**Mrs J Barnett BA (QTS)**

11<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Parent,

We hope you had a wonderful summer break and are delighted to welcome you back to the new academic year. This year promises to be a journey filled with learning, growth, and wonderful experiences. This letter includes information about the curriculum areas that the children in Year 1 will be covering this term and information that you will require.

We have many exciting topics in Year 1 and this term there will be themes of 'Amazing Animals' and 'Toy Workshop'. During 'Amazing Animals' we will be learning about a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals as well as different climates. During the topic 'Toy Workshop' we focus on how toys are similar and different to those played with in the past. We will also design and make computer games to develop our understanding of algorithms and instructions. We will be having a visit from ZooLab as part of our 'Amazing Animals' topic and a visit from a Victorian schoolteacher as part of our 'Toy Workshop' topic.

Our timetable this term will have an English, Phonics and Mathematics focus during the morning, with foundation subjects taking place during our afternoon lessons. In addition, throughout the year your child will take part in curriculum days that enhance their learning experience. This term Year 1 will be involved in a Victorians day.

In **English** we will begin by reading stories with familiar settings and rhymes with predictable and repetitive patterns including 'Panda Bear, Panda Bear' by Eric Carle. We will be using these stories to inspire us to write imaginative sentences and help us create our own stories. We will also be looking at non-fiction texts and using these to help us practise writing captions and sentences.

In **Mathematics** we will be working through National Curriculum objectives for Year 1, beginning with a focus on number and place value. Lessons will be very practical, with a focus initially on number fluency. We will develop our ability to count on and back; sort; use place value; calculate using mathematical symbols and solve mathematical problems.

Other topics we will be studying are:

Science	Classifying Animals and their Diet Seasonal Change
History	Toys through the ages
Geography	Hot and cold places and the animals that live there
Computing	Seesaw Computer science and Programming
Art	Collage
D.T.	Sliders and Levers
P.E.	Teambuilding, Dance, Ball Skills – Hands 1, Health and Wellbeing
R.E.	Is everybody special? Should we celebrate Christmas and Harvest?
Music	Hey You! Rhythm in the way we walk and Banana Rap
PSHE	Being Me in My World Celebrating Difference

## Homework

This year homework will be set and submitted on Seesaw. In Year 1 the children will receive the following homework:

English and Mathematics homework will be set on a Friday and is expected to be returned by Wednesday.

Spellings will also be set on Seesaw and tested in class. These will be given to the children on a Friday with a test the following Friday.

We have developed our spelling lists to correspond with what the children are learning in their Phonics lessons. All children are expected to learn these spellings to help consolidate their phonics skills.

This year, we continue to focus on reading (especially reading for enjoyment) and are looking forward to finding out about what exciting books the children enjoy. It is very important that children in Year 1 read at home every day. Please complete the paper-based reading diary, every time you read with your child. It is vital that these are in school every day. Children will have the opportunity to change their reading books at school twice a week on **Mondays and Thursdays**. Each week your child will have the opportunity to receive two phonics and two coloured book band readers. Children will read both individually and in guided reading sessions in school on a regular basis.

Our carefully selected suggested reads for Year 1 are as follows:

1. The Cat in the Hat by Dr Seuss
2. Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
3. Avocado Baby by John Burningham
4. Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers
5. Can't You Sleep Little Bear? by Martin Waddell
6. Beegu by Alexis Deacon
7. Cops and Robbers by Alan and Janet Ahlberg
8. The Bog Baby by Jeanne Willis
9. The Bear and the Piano by David Litchfield
10. Billy's Bucket by Kes Gray
11. Be More Bernard by Simon Phillip and Kate Hindley
12. The Adventures of the Dish and the Spoon by Mini Grey

## PE and Games

The children will need a full, named PE kit (T-Shirt, shorts, socks, plimsolls/trainers). Both classes will have Games and PE on Thursday mornings. Children will be expected to bring in and leave their kits in school for the entire half term. As a reminder, they will be required to wear trainers for outdoor PE.

## Personal Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

Personal social and emotional development (PSED) forms a key part of our curriculum each term. Teaching personal development is vital in many ways. It helps children develop a positive sense of themselves, independence, respect for others, social skills, emotional well-being and a positive disposition to learning.

This term your child will be taught about their place in the world and recognising and celebrating differences as part of our PSHE curriculum. They will also be introduced to, and be asked to reflect on, the following key values through our weekly assembly programme: Trust, Love, Dignity, Generosity, Thankfulness, Joy, Peace, Community and Wisdom. In addition, across the Autumn Term, children will learn about the importance of helping others through our involvement with One Can Trust and our Harvest celebrations and the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and our Remembrance Service.

In Autumn 2, all children will take place in 'Anti-Bullying week', a week dedicated to sending a clear and positive message that bullying is neither acceptable nor inevitable in our schools and communities. Children are also taught that it is important to tell someone if they are being bullied and how to get help if they find themselves in that position. We also hold our annual, 'Walk To School Week' to help our pupils start to recognise both the health benefits of walking to school and the environmental benefit of having fewer cars on the road.

Pupils in Year 1 will also have the opportunity to develop their self-confidence this term as they take part in our Christmas Production. We are really looking forward to this special event as we are sure are you.

Finally, across the school, pupils are given the opportunity to perform key roles to both develop their leadership skills and sense of responsibility or teamwork. These responsibilities increase as children progress through the different year groups. In Year 1 pupils take on the following whole school roles:

- School council – as voted for by their peers

Please keep an eye out for the monthly newsletter as that will provide further details of the above events and also detail additional opportunities that the children at SMAS experience as part of our PSED Curriculum and school vision.

If you ever wish to discuss anything about your child, please make an appointment through the office.

Yours sincerely,

Miss K Olive, Miss K Piekarska and Miss E Moss  
Y1 Class Teachers