

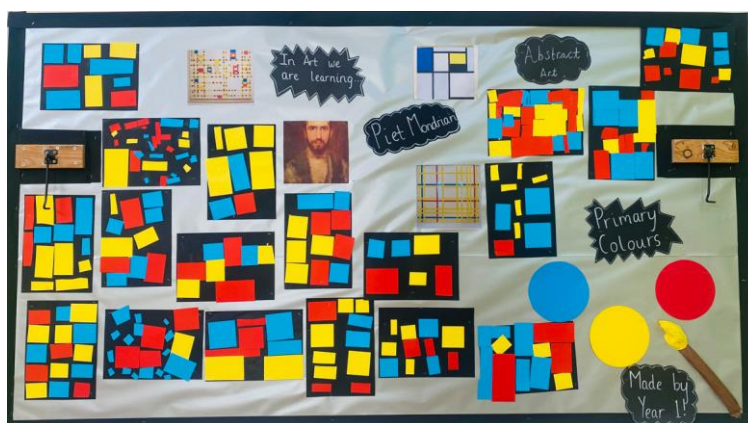
## Year one autumn term newsletter

Welcome back to you all after our lovely long summer holiday. Your children have shown a great attitude as they have made the transition between Reception and Year One amazingly well. We feel very proud of how quickly they have got used to their new classrooms and routines and are taking responsibility for their possessions.

We have a fun-filled and exciting term ahead of us and we are so delighted that the children will continue to visit Forest School weekly to enhance their understanding of the world around them, encourage their natural curiosity and allow them to explore in a natural setting. Our Science unit this term is Animals including Humans and Forest School will be the perfect environment for them to deepen their understanding of minibeasts and other animals. Elm class will visit Forest School on Monday mornings and Beech class on Thursday mornings. Please ensure that your child has appropriate clothing on Forest School days (a letter will be sent out wc 11<sup>th</sup> September with further details about Forest School.) Forest School will start wc 18<sup>th</sup> September.

### So, what will be learning about this term?

Our Art unit this term is called "Colour Chaos" and we will be looking at a variety of abstract art artists as we explore colour mixing and using a variety of materials and media. The children have lived the value of Pride as they have worked hard to be successful in making collages in the style of Piet Mondrian. Some of these are currently on display in our school hall:



In Geography we are learning about key landmarks in our local environment including our school. We will be looking at and creating aerial plans, finding out how compasses work and experimenting with the magic of Google Earth. Any opportunity you have to go on walks in the local area with your child will help them build on what they are learning in class. This term's star challenge is linked to our Geography unit.

Later in the term we will start our History topic investigating the historical event of the Gunpowder Plot and tying in beautifully with Bonfire Night celebrations.

In English this year we will be using The Write Stuff approach which is a new approach to writing that we are rolling out across the school. The approach builds children's confidence in sentence level writing and enhances their vocabulary greatly. Listen out for some of the fantastic new words the children will be using. Our first unit will be writing instructions about how to get your teacher ready for school. We can't wait to hear some of your children's ideas!

In the first week of term we have been helping children to distinguish between letter names and letter sounds. They have shown that they are particularly good at learning letter names whilst singing along to alphabet songs. This is one of their favourite songs - why not sing along at home together? <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/watch/get-squiggling-letters-alphabet-song>

Our main focus in Maths this term is Place Value and addition and subtraction within 10. The children have shown strong mathematical foundations from Reception and are taking pride in their number formation. We use representations (eg counters or blocks) as they help children to move from a concrete understanding (using objects) to a pictorial understanding (where they are able to draw out the calculation) and then an abstract understanding (using numbers instead of objects or pictures).

We follow the White Rose scheme of learning for maths. Families can access videos to reinforce class teaching here: <https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths/home-learning?year=year-1-new>

Our Music this term focusses on developing an understanding of Beat. Our unit is called "How can we make friends when we sing together".

In Computing the children are using Purple Mash software to create pictures and learn about saving and retrieving work as well as online safety. Each child will have an individual login and password which they can use at home to further their learning. Please look in their reading records for the logins.

In indoor PE we are starting this half term with dance units about Weather and Pirates before moving on next half-term to gymnastics. In outdoor PE they are learning basic skills for jumping, running and throwing as well as spatial awareness. We hope that the children will also be keen to join some of the extra-curricular clubs taking place before and after school.

PSHE this term will build on the children's understanding of the concept of families and relationships. We will be celebrating diversity within families and looking at how families interact together.



In RE we will be discussing the big questions "Who is a Christian and what do they believe?" and "Why does Christmas matter to Christians". Our school value of Respect will be at the fore as we learn to respect and value different religions.

Useful websites to help your child's learning:

Maths: <https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths/home-learning?year=year-1-new>

Pure sounds pronunciation (to help with phonics acquisition):

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCI2mu7URBc>

Letterjoin (print handwriting) [www.letterjoin.co.uk](http://www.letterjoin.co.uk) Desktop login username: gothic password: mede

Tablet login username: gothic password: Draw a capital L using the grid provided

Espresso: <http://www.discoveryeducation.co.uk/> username: student4386 password: gothic

### **Our Teaching Team**

Beech Class: Mrs Oestreicher will be teaching the class every day; except for Wednesday afternoons when they are taught by Mrs Godfrey.

Elm Class: Miss O'Gorman will be teaching in class every day; except for Wednesday afternoons when they are taught by Mrs Anderson.

Mrs Heslin, Mrs Froud and Miss DiGiovanni are our wonderful learning support team and they will be working with individual children and small groups across the year group.

Beech class are also very lucky to have Miss Pearson, who is a PGCE trainee teacher, working with us this year.

### **Daily Routines**

In Year 1 we encourage the children to develop their independence and self-reliance and to show the school value of Responsibility. We are impressed by how the children have been coming in independently having said goodbye to their parents at the playground gate. Most of the children are remembering to put their snacks and water bottles in the designated trays in the classroom. Please could all children have water bottles in school every day. It also really helps us if all PE kit and school clothing is

clearly labelled as we are sure that you understand that searching for lost clothing can be a challenge!

With such a full timetable in Year one we do not have a designated Show and Tell slot. However, if your child has something that is linked to their school learning that they would like to bring to show their class, then we will find time that week for them to share their discoveries with the other children.

## **PE**

In year one we have outdoor PE on Fridays. Please ensure that they are wearing suitable kit for the weather (please wear tracksuit bottoms or leggings if cold). We are finding that lots of children have trainers with laces. If your child has lace-up trainers please can you teach them how to tie their laces as it is very time-consuming for teachers to do this several times a day 😊. An alternative is for your child to have velcro rather than laces. On Tuesdays we have Indoor PE. If your child has a verruca, they will be allowed to participate in plimsoles. Please make sure that earrings are removed or that tape is provided to cover them up.



## **Reading**

It is essential that children read at home as much as possible. Being able to read well is one of the principal indicators for academic success as children move through the school.

Children should bring their reading books in daily. In Year One, books will be changed on Thursdays. We expect parents/carers to listen to their child read regularly - ideally every day but at least 3 times a week and to record this in the reading diary.

We are also sending out the list of Harder to Read and Spell words that the children covered in Reception. Please encourage your child to spot these words in their reading books.

All children have access to e-books through the Oxford Owl e-library. Individual logins are in your child's reading record and we have attached a letter to help you access this valuable resource.

Adults in school will hear your child read as much as possible. This will be through 1-1 reading, guided reading and within lessons.

Children will visit our wonderful library once a fortnight and will bring a book home to share with you. Our library day is Wednesday - please ensure that library books are always in book bags on Wednesday.



### Homework

- **English**- Weekly spellings will be sent home every Friday in a plastic folder. Please practise these regularly throughout the week at home. Spellings will be checked on the Thursday of the following week.
- **Maths** - Maths homework will be sent home fortnightly. One homework will focus on developing mathematical fluency (e.g. number facts) and the following one will be a more open-ended task to develop reasoning and problem-solving skills.
- **Star Challenge** - There will also be a termly 'Star Challenge'. The dates are as follows:

**Autumn:** 8th September (issue date) 18th December (return date)

**Spring:** 12th January (issue date) 25th March (return date)

**Summer:** 19th April (issue date) 15th July (return date)

This term's Star Challenge is about Our Local Area.

**If you have any questions please speak to your class teacher at pick-up time or send a message to the office and we will contact you as soon as we can.**

**We look forward to meeting you at Meet the Teacher on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September.**

**Here's to a wonderful year of learning!**

**The Year One Team**