



Dear Parents / Carers of children in Woodpeckers Class,

A very warm welcome to the Autumn term in Woodpecker Class! We are really happy to see you all and we look forward to a fun and busy term.

Below, we have outlined some information regarding the work covered in our class this first half term as well as general routines.

We hope this will be of help and interest to you.



Maths

This Autumn term in maths, Year 1 will be looking at numbers to 10, breaking-down numbers within 10 to parts and wholes (e.g. $8 = 5+3$), addition and subtraction up to 10, and 2D and 3d shapes. We will teach through a mixture of practical activities and our workbooks. Year 2 will be focussing on numbers to 100, addition and subtraction to 100 and within 100, and properties of shapes.

We are also really focussing on the formation and place value of numbers. Year 1 children need to know their number bonds up to 20 and Year 2 children need to know 2, 5 and 10 times tables by the end of the year. We will be constantly revising this in class but may also occasionally send home support work. Formation of numbers is just as important as when we write our letters and so we will be supporting children to have their numbers the correct way around.

Reading and Phonics

We are following the Bug Club phonics for children in Year 1. The books we are sending home match up with this to help the children put what they are learning into practice, so please take time to read these with your children. The games that are assigned to you on Bug Club match the lessons which we are doing in class.

We are also beginning to look at comprehension questions and how we can use what we have read to understand new words. By using Bug Club reading online you will have reading level appropriate questions to answer. Children in Year 2 will now be having daily Guided Reading sessions to help strengthen their understanding of what they read. Any questions regarding logging in to Bug Club, please just ask!

Writing

This half term the children will be reading the book, *Lost and Found*, by Oliver Jeffers and they will be writing their own adventure story based on the structure of *Lost and Found* with a new animal. We will be thinking about collecting amazing vocabulary and using the book, *The Word Collector* as inspiration. The main writing aim for Year 1 is for children to sequence sentences to form short narratives, and re-read what they have written to check that it makes sense. The aim for Year 2 pupils is to expand their sentences with descriptive words, edit their sentences to include "better" words and to use correct verb forms. The children will be focussing on using the correct letter formation, finger spaces and sitting their letters on the line.

RE

In RE, Year 1 will be all about the story of Creation and Covenant. During this unit, they will be thinking about how God made the world, that everything comes from God and he shows his love for us through creation. Children will learn about the importance of prayer and how to look after God's creations. Year 2 will be exploring the story of Noah and the Sacrament of Baptism. The children will learn that prayer is a way Catholics draw closer to God.

Science

In Science this term, we will be looking at plants and how they have roots that take in water and nutrients for the plant. We will think about whether something is living or not living and we will look at why leaves change colour in the Autumn. We will be tree detectives looking at the different types of trees that we have on our school grounds.

PE and music

The children will have PE every Monday with Mr Murnane and they will be focussing on . This term our swimming lessons will take place on a Friday afternoon, so please ensure that your child has their swimming costume and towel with them, and that they are able to get changed by themselves. Adults can help with buttons and tangled tights but cannot assist children with dressing.

Mrs Gibbs will teach music on a Thursday. The children will be focussing on building their musical skills, whilst also enjoying exploring a variety of instruments and listening to a range of music.

History, Computing and Art

In Computing, we will be making digital images using Paintz.app—it is great fun and you can access the app from home! We will be studying—and replicating the style of—art by Mondrian, Matisse and Kandinsky.

In History we will be learning about our family history. We will look at family trees and learn that a family tree shows the relationships between different generations in a family.

In Art we will be introducing how artists use sketchbooks. Our topic is all about spirals and we will be thinking about how making a drawing is a physical activity which uses the whole body and connects head, hand and heart.

PSHE

In PSHE, we are continuing with the work on *My Happy Mind* which we started in the Summer term. Children will be learning about how their brain works, grows, makes decisions and they will also be practising self-regulation skills such as Happy Breathing.

Homework

All Woodpeckers are expected to read 5x a week at home.

Fruit: The children will continue to receive a piece of fruit at morning playtimes.

Water: We encourage the children to drink during the day and therefore ask them to bring in a water bottle. This should not have squash/cordial/tea in it, only water. Please label your child's bottle. Thank you.

We look forward to an enjoyable term and, as always, are extremely appreciative of parental support with your child's learning at home, i.e. listening to them read, using Bug Club and supporting with spellings etc – it really does make such a difference to their progress. If you do have any concerns at any time about work or anything else, please do not hesitate to come and see us, or message us through Class Dojo. If you don't already have the app, please try to download it as we often send messages, reminders and updates this way.

Thank you for your support!

Ms Matthews, Mrs Bray and Mrs Foley