

Class 1 Termly Newsletter

Dear parents and carers,

The children have settled into life at Denver Primary really well, and are already proving to be confident and eager learners! The following provides an overview of the types of learning we will be doing and the different topics to be covered this term.

Literacy:

The children will begin their learning journeys in this area in a number of ways, included but not limited to:

- Learning how to write their names.
- Identifying the initial sounds in words.
- Making meaningful marks using various media and materials.
- Beginning to understand how we read; e.g. from left to right.
- Listening to stories.
- Retelling stories verbally and sequencing narratives.
- Daily sharing of "Big Books" focusing on common words and simple narratives, along with discussion of non-fiction texts and their features.

We will look at various text types, including fiction, rhymes and lists. We will begin with the theme of "Ourselves" before moving onto topics based on Autumn, Winter Festivals and traditional rhymes and songs. In phonics, we will begin to think about the sounds we can hear in the world around us before moving on to look at the *s, p, i, n, m, d, g, o, c, k, ck, e, u* sounds. Over the next few weeks, we will begin to send home reading books and simple homework tasks based on the letters and sounds we are learning.

Numeracy:

EYFS learners will begin their learning in this area based on the following overview:

- Learning counting and number songs.
- Counting, recognising and writing each number to ten.
- Accurate 1:1 counting.
- Beginning to estimate quantities based on arrays.
- Ordering numbers and objects.
- Sorting and matching-type activities.

Physical Education:

The children will begin their PE lessons by learning to use and navigate the space around them. We will play games to help them develop their spatial awareness and gross motor skills and will begin to think about healthy lifestyles. The children will also have the opportunity to explore the outside area and learn some simple dance routines. We will also talk about what constitutes good physical and mental health, develop independence in terms of changing clothes for PE and encourage the children to take ownership of their own physical needs with regards toileting, eating and drinking.

Communication and Language:

The children will continue to be given frequent opportunities to talk about a range of subjects across the curriculum and in PSHE, in addition to developing their awareness and use of verbal and non-verbal forms of

communication, by talking, sharing and listening to each other during formal and informal contexts. The development of communication and language skills is of great importance and opportunities to develop the children's confidence and ability in this area is embedded in all learning, whether it is in the form of stories, discussion or music.

Understanding of the world:

This is an important area of the curriculum and encompasses many topics and areas of study. We will always look to explore the children's own interests where possible, in addition to specific topics and units of work that include the following:

- Ourselves and others: Talking about people and events that hold personal significance.
- Autumn: Finding out about seasonal change in our environment.
- School Life: Learning routines and processes that exist at school.
- Traditions – Christmas.
- Where we live: Exploring the local environment and comparing it to other countries.

Art and Design:

It is important the children are given the opportunity to be creative, and to this end, the classroom has a dedicated area for arts and crafts that learners can access each day. In art and design lessons, the children will be studying portraits, developing their ability to draw themselves and others, and thinking about important features and the idea of "adding detail". Additionally, the children will engage in this area of the curriculum by way of the following:

- Experimenting with different instruments
- Dance
- Creating art using different media, e.g. paints, crayons and pastels etc.
- Junk modelling (feel free to donate any unwanted cardboard boxes and similar resources!)
- "Autumn Art" using natural materials

Music:

The children will receive specialist teaching in music every week courtesy of Mr. Lawrence. They will sing songs and rhymes linked to the topic area, among others. Elsewhere, the children will use music in Literacy and, in Numeracy, use singing and chants to help develop their confidence in counting. I feel music is an important part of the curriculum and enjoy using music in different areas of learning wherever possible.

Religious Education:

The children will learn about Christianity and listen to traditional bible stories. Later in the term, we will consider the Nativity story. We will also examine traditional winter festivals from around the world, such as the Hindu Festival of Light and talk about the importance of respecting other people's beliefs even if they differ from our own.

Other:

Outside Achievements:

The children will keep a learning journal at school, however, this only tells us about the children's learning, interests and experiences that occur inside the classroom. It is therefore, important that the children know that they are welcome to bring-in or discuss any outside achievements they would like to share with the group, such as certificates, photos of special events or things they have enjoyed doing at home or in the community. We

have a "Wow" board where we can display such things and will always find time to talk about the children's interests and achievements as this helps to form a broader picture of each learner and their likes and interests.

Toys:

Could I please ask that the children do not bring in their own toys, as there is always a risk of them getting broken or lost. It is also worth mentioning that toys are not something we generally celebrate during "show and tell", although certificates or other outside achievements are very welcome.

Before and after school:

Could I remind parents that the children should wait on the main playground before school starts. Until then, the small gate will be closed. On hearing the bell/whistle, the children should then make their way to the small playground outside Class 1 where they line up. Additionally, children – including siblings – should not use the slide/climbing frame before or after school.

Best wishes

Mr. Sexton