**12th September 2022**

**Class 1 Termly Newsletter**

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to a new year in Class 1 and for a lot of the children, their first year at Denver Primary School. All of the new children have settled in really well into the class and we look forward to our exciting year ahead. This letter will provide 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.
* Regular 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. Year 1 pupils will concentrate on developing their ability to write simple sentences that they can read themselves, and we will use a range of stories and images to facilitate this work.

We will also be beginning our phonics learning through the school scheme of ‘Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised’. Reception children will begin by listening to sounds and honing their sound identification before working through Phase 2 of the scheme up to Christmas.

**Year 1** pupils begin their phonics this year by revising the content learnt last year, briefly revisiting all phonemes learnt last year before beginning their learning of Phase 5, where split digraphs start to be introduced.

Both reception and year 1 children will receive 3 group reading sessions a week in accordance to Little Wandle and at the end of the week, these books will be sent home for them to share with yourselves for a few days.

**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.

**Year 1** pupils will be begin to use ‘Power Maths’ textbooks and interactive resources as they begin their KS1 journey into mathematics, beginning to dive a little deeper in areas including:

* Number recognition
* Numbers to 10
* Part/whole within 10\*
* Number and Place Value
* Addition/Subtraction
* Money and Measurement
* Shape
* Numbers to 20 and beyond

**Physical Education:**

The children will begin their PE lessons by learning to use and navigate the space around them. Where possible, PE will take place outside on the playing field but during the colder, wetter months, we will use the hall. We will play games to help them develop their spatial awareness and gross motor skills and will begin to think about healthy lifestyles and the effects exercise has on our bodies. We will also talk about what constitutes good physical and mental health and encourage our younger learners to become more independent in terms of regulating their own physical needs.

**Communication and Language:**

The children will continue to be given frequent opportunities to talk about a range of subjects across the curriculum and in their continuous provision opportunities. This is achieved through 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, music or play.

**Continuous Provision:**

Afternoons in Class 1 will focus on continuous provision, where we focus on the interests of the children and learn about topics that may come up in conversations. Whilst we focus on the children’s interests, we will also aim to cover a few topics in particular that will help broaden and develop the children’s understanding of the world around them. These topics will include:

* 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 Bridgit Riley and creating optical and monochrome art. 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
* “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. We 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 learning about Christianity and will listen to traditional bible stories. To begin the term, we will be discussing why the word ‘God’ is important to Christians whilst later in the term, we will consider the Nativity story and why we decide to perform the Nativity every year.

**Other:**

**Toys:**

Could we 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.

Best wishes

Mr Rackham & Mrs Alves