



Year 1 Newsletter

The Year 1 team consists of Miss Newman, Mrs Silva, Miss Rana and Miss Aurela.

The children have immersed themselves in a wide range of activities to continue their learning journeys this half term. They have shown continuous enthusiasm and engagement in their new topics and have thoroughly enjoyed developing their critical thinking, problem solving and resilience.

HOME LEARNING

This half term in Year 1, we have been using Purple Mash to do our home learning. It is set every Friday and is due in the following Wednesday. Please make sure your child is active in completing this.

SPELLING

Each week your child is given a new set of spellings to learn. It is crucial to help your child learn and practise their spellings. It will enable them to effectively learn the spelling patterns needed for their writing.

READING

Please make sure you read with your child every night! They should be bringing their reading books and purple diaries to school every day. The more you comment in your child's reading diary, the more we can all support them in making progress. If you need any help or support filling in the reading diaries, please see a member of staff who will be happy to help.

English

This half term the children's English topic has been 'Shrek'. We began the topic by writing our own story about his adventures with Donkey, whilst learning how to include adjectives, conjunctions and fronted adverbials to add more detail to our writing. The children produced amazing pieces of writing and we are so proud of all of them! Then, we were delivered an exciting letter in the post from Lord Farquaad! He asked us for help as Princess Fiona was trapped by the Dragon again. We decided to write a letter to Donkey to ask for his help on our dangerous mission. As part of this, we learnt all about how to include questions in our writing.



Maths

In Maths, the children have worked hard to progress their learning this half term! Over the past few weeks they have covered topics including Number and Place Value, Addition and Subtraction and also Multiplication and Division. They thoroughly enjoyed learning about these topics through practical activities, including using people in the class to help us count by 2s, 5s and 10s! We have focused more on problem solving and reasoning questions this half term, and have encouraged the children to answer these as independently as they can, when possible. The children have worked really hard at developing their independence this half term, well done Year 1!

Science

This half term in Science we have started a brand new topic of 'Everyday Materials'. The children began the topic by going on a nature walk around the school and playgrounds to see which different materials they could find and name. They were challenged to describe the materials they came across, using their senses to help them! The children were then provided with a range of everyday materials including cutlery, dressing up clothes and glass jars to help them identify and describe the properties of each. During this lesson, the children were able to expand their vocabulary as they were able to physically see and touch each material. For example, they have now learnt that glass is delicate and transparent, but wood is hard and rough! The children then developed their understanding of waterproof and absorbent to help them with their investigation! They had to investigate which material was the most waterproof and which was the most absorbent to help them decide which material would be the most appropriate to make an umbrella out of. Through this investigation, the children have developed their observation skills and expanded their scientific vocabulary.



Design and Technology

The children have had many opportunities to find things out for themselves during Design and Technology this half term in our topic of 'Clay Structures'. The topic began by using the iPads to research the different features of Shrek's swamp and presenting their findings on Popplet. They were then given the clay and tools to explore which techniques they thought were the most effective, and began thinking about which technique they would use for each feature. The children used this information to help them design their swamps and label how they would make each part of the swamp. Over the next two weeks, the children used the clay and the tools to carefully assemble, model, sculpt and carve their structures. Each week the children have shown outstanding dedication to their work and their standard of work has been exceptional throughout the topic. Well done Year 1!

History

Our History topic this half term has been 'Man on the Moon'. As part of this topic, the children have learnt all about the first American man to walk on the Moon and about Tim Peake's mission in 2015. To start the topic off, the children were extremely lucky to have a visit from a real life astronaut, Commander Johnson! The children were fascinated by him and asked him lots of interesting questions. This made the children very curious about their learning throughout the topic and were constantly wanting to find out more! Throughout the topic, the children created fact files about Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake and used this information to help them write a letter to Tim Peake. They asked him a range of questions in their letters, including 'Which other planet would you love to fly to?'.

Computing

This half term the children have started a brand new topic of 'Lego Wedo'. This topic involved them learning lots of new vocabulary to aid their learning, including the words 'algorithm' and 'debug'. The topic started off by the children exploring the Lego Wedo and building their own structures. They quickly learnt how to make their structures spin and move. Using this information, they progressed onto making their own algorithms, debugging any errors and editing them to ensure their structure moves as effectively as possible. The children have been so engaged in the topic each week and have continuously wanted to do even more with their structures!

Important dates to remember:

Our new English topic next half term will be 'Traction Man Is Here!'. To immerse the children in this new topic, the children are to come to school dressed up as their favourite superhero on Wednesday 4th March 2020.

Next half term the children will be going on a trip to Coombe Abbey. Whilst there, the children will enjoy a range of activities including map reading, collecting natural materials for their art topic and identifying different materials and their properties. More details and letters will be provided after the half term.

