**Year 1 Autumn 2017 1st Half term Newsletter**

**Welcome to Year 1!**

The children have had a good first couple of days getting settled into their new classrooms and routines. Our Y1 outdoor play areas will begin next Tuesday (12th) and the children will be able to access these areas during the afternoons. Thank you for all the fantastic work produced from the “Summer Scrapbook challenge”, the children are enjoying talking about their Summer and these will take pride of place in our Reading corner. Thank you for your support in settling your child into Year 1.

If your child took part in the Worthing Library’s Summer reading challenge, please send the certificate in.

Remember, if you have any questions or worries please speak to your child’s class teacher.

Many thanks, Mrs Sarah Davy (Deputy Head teacher)

**Diary dates**

Tuesday 26th September - Badgers and Foxes visit Homefield Park.

Wednesday 27th September – Hedgehogs and Squirrels visit Homefield Park.

6th October - Autumn Rotation Day

13th October – Harvest celebration day (donating for Worthing Homeless project – more details to follow)

17th & 19th October– Parents evening

20th October – Grandparents day

23rd - 27th October – Half term

30th October – INSET day

2nd half term – Toy story topic

6th & 7th November visit to Worthing Museum £3 per child for a led session (more details to follow)

6th December – Aladdin performed by West end theatres (cost per child details to follow)

**Homework**

In Year 1, children should spend around 10-15 minutes per day on homework to help them consolidate and practise the skills they have been learning in school.

**Reading:**

We ask that you read with your child 4 times per week. Your child should have a ‘Reading Record’ book in their book bag for you to record your home reading. In here you will also find targets linked to their book bag colour. “Bug Club” can also be used to practise reading.

**Spelling and phonics**

The children will bring home spelling words and a list of the phonic sounds covered every 2 weeks. They will be tested on their spellings at the end of the two weeks, although we are also looking for children to spell these words correctly in their writing. These will begin week commencing (w/c) 2nd October.

**Maths:**

The children will bring home a target sheet for the half term. This shows the ‘footsteps’ they need to work through to achieve the target, and ideas and suggestions of how to reach these end of year expectations.

**Reminders:**

* Please ensure **everything** is clearly marked with your child’s name, including shoes, coats and PE kits! Lost items are far more likely to make their way back to their rightful owners if names are displayed clearly.
* Please ensure your child has a PE kit in school every day, including plimsolls/trainers and tracksuit bottoms for when the weather is gets colder. If your child attends a club that requires PE kit, please send it back into school the following day or get them to pop it back on their peg after club. Please remove ear-rings on PE days.
* Please **do not** allow children to **bring toys**, trading cards etc into school. If things get lost or damaged it leads to disagreements and upsets!
* When it gets colder, please make sure your child has a coat in school every day to wear for playtimes and in the outdoor areas.

Junk Modelling:

Over the coming weeks the children will be using their model making skills to support their DT If you have spare ‘junk’ at home please send it in! Please note we are **not** allowed to use **toilet roll tubes**.

**WHAT ARE WE LEARNING THIS HALF TERM?**

**What do you find in the park?**

**Literacy** - We will be sharing stories from “Percy the Park keeper”, the children will be retelling stories as well as acting in role as different characters. We will focus on some key Year 1 writing skills, including using capital letters, finger spaces and punctuation (full stops and question marks) to write sentences. We will use our sentence writing skills to write labels and recounts linked to our Science and geography topic.

**Science** - This half term we will be learning about plants linked to our Park topic. The children will learn to identify and describe the basic structure, and name a range of common plants and trees, using ‘Spotter’s Guides’ to help. They will observe closely using simple equipment.

**Geography** - The children will explore the geography of our school and local area, exploring human and physical features and developing our knowledge of where things are located. We will use fieldwork and observational skills during our Park trip.

**D&T** - The children will be learning about different ways to join materials and explore how to choose the best join for the task. They will research features of playground equipment, design and create their own piece of play equipment.

**Maths:**

* **Number and counting:** Count, read and write numbers to 20 and then beyond to 100. Representing numbers in different ways e.g. with numicon and using number lines.
* **Addition and subtraction:** Finding 1 more or 1 less than a given number. Read, write and understand calculations using the signs +, - and = . Add and subtract 1 digit and 2 digit numbers to 20.
* **Shape:** Recognise and name common 2-D shapes e.g. rectangles (including squares), circles and triangles.

**PE:**

* Children will master basic movements including running, jumping, throwing and catching, as well as developing balance, agility and coordination, and begin to apply these in a range of activities.
* Indoor PE sessions will focus on Gymnastics - families of actions.
* Outdoor PE sessions will be led by Chelsea Coaches and cover team building games to support our new classes learning to work together.

PE days will be:

Badgers – Monday and Thursday

Foxes – Tuesday and Thursday

Hedgehogs – Monday and Thursday

Squirrels – Monday and Thursday

**School library time:**

The children will have the opportunity to borrow a book each fortnight. Please return the book to exchange for a new one on the following days:

Badgers – Tuesday

Foxes – Friday

Hedgehogs – Friday

Squirrels – Friday

**Subject Rotation**

* We will begin subject rotation teaching on Monday afternoon (w/c 18th September). The teachers will teach their subject to the entire year group:

Mr Johnson – RE (Myself and Celebrations)

Mrs Benge – Mental maths skills (see Maths information above)

Mrs Esser – Handwriting (correctly forming letters)

Mrs Bray – Ocarina (Ocarinas that were ordered before the Summer have arrived and will be given out to the children on the 18th. If you would like to place an order for one please see the office.

**Phonics groupings**

* As mentioned at the Parents meeting in July, Year 1 children will be experiencing the Phonics Screener test in June 2018. In order to meet the developing phonics needs of each child more closely, we teach phonics in ability groups each morning. The children will begin moving classes for phonics w/c 25th September. These groupings are fluid and you may find that your child changes groups over the year in order to meet their developing skills and needs.

**Trips and Visits**

* As part of our learning journey, the children will visit Homefield Park in the morning on the following dates:

Badgers and Foxes – Tuesday 26th September

Hedgehogs and Squirrels – Wednesday 27th September

We can only give the children these wonderful first hand experiences if we have some wonderful parents to help. Please let your class teacher know ASAP if you can help with their trip.

If you would like to be a regular helper you will need to complete a DBS certificate with Sarah Marchant in the school office.

Date for your diary:

We will be going to Worthing Museum on 6th and 7th November (details to follow – please could we have parent helpers on these days too).