**Year 1 Autumn 2017 2nd Half term Newsletter**

**Welcome back!**

I hope everyone had an enjoyable half term week and enjoyed all the beautiful colours around us and the mild weather. The feedback from our Chelsea coaching sessions has been incredible, the children have grown in confidence, leadership skills and most importantly their ability to work as a team.

Our three Y1 outdoor play areas will continue this term and the children will be able to access these areas during the afternoons.

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**

6th November – Squirrels & Foxes visit Worthing Museum (Squirrels to arrive at 8:45am please)

7th November – Badgers & Hedgehogs visit Worthing Museum (Badgers to arrive at school at 8:45am please)

13th November – Anti-bullying/ Keeping safe week

20th November – Disability enrichment day

6th December – Aladdin performed by West end theatres

14th December – 2:30pm-3:30pm “Book Look”. Please come and see your child’s work!

18th December – Christmas nativity

a.m. Badgers & Foxes

p.m Squirrels & Hedgehogs

**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 week. They will be tested on their spellings at the end of the week, although we are also looking for children to spell these words correctly in their writing.

**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.

Our D.T project this term will be sewing “Softies” (felt toys), Please let your class teacher know if you could help with sewing during the w/c 27th Nov, 4th & 11th Dec. Many thanks ☺

**Reminders:**

* Please ensure everything is clearly marked with your child’s name, including shoes 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/ warm top. 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.

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

**Toy Story**

This half term our topic will be focused on something that we *all* love – toys!

Our topic will begin with a visit from a very special guest who needs our help!

**Literacy**

We will be focusing on the following:

* Retelling stories and then writing our own
* Writing letters and postcards
* Using our literacy skills to help us research and then present what we have found out

**Science** - This half term we will be researching materials and their properties. We will be linking this to our History and DT work by exploring what toys are made of and why.

**Computing** - We will be using the internet to support our Science and History work. We will also be learning about e-safety and how to stay safe when online.

**Art and D&T** - We will be exploring the work of textile artists and learning a range of sewing techniques including running and blanket stitch. These skills will then be used to design and make ‘softie’ toys!

**History** - We will be researching toys from the past and exploring how they have changed.

**PSHCE** – “Getting on and falling out” theme from SEAL resources. Rights Respecting Schools, we will focus on Safety Seal and article 24, “You have the right to clean water, healthy food and a safe place to play.”

**Maths:**

We will be focusing on the following areas:

* Counting in 2s, 5s and 10s – this will be linked to money to help us find totals
* Place value – understanding what each digit in a number means and using this to help us order numbers, add and take away.
* Add and subtract 1-digit and 2-digit numbers to 20, including zero.
* Fractions – finding half of a shape or amount
* Measure – comparing using language such as heavier than/lighter then, longer/shorter, empty, full

**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 Gymnastic actions and shapes with Heather (the head coach from Worthing Gym club)
* Outdoor PE sessions will focus on throwing and catching, ball skills and games.

PE days will be:

Badgers – Wednesday and Thursday

Foxes – Tuesday and Thursday

Hedgehogs – Wednesday 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 – Thursday

Foxes – Friday

Hedgehogs – Friday

Squirrels – Friday

**Subject Rotation**

* We will continue subject rotation teaching on a **Monday** afternoon. The teachers will teach their subject to the entire year group:

Mr Johnson – RE (Celebrations)

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

Mrs Esser – Handwriting (correctly forming letters and joining skills)

Mrs Bray – Ocarina (please ensure these are in their book bags)

**Phonics groupings**

* As mentioned at the Parents meeting in July, Year 1 children will be experiencing the Phonics Screener test in June 2017. In order to meet the developing phonics needs of each child more closely, we teach phonics in ability groups each morning. 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 Worthing Museum for an artefact handling session.

We can only give the children these wonderful first hand experiences if we have some wonderful parents to help. If you would like to be a regular helper you will need to complete a DBS certificate with Sarah Marchant in the school office. Thank you in advance for volunteering your time.