



# Welcome to Year 1

Welcome back Year 1 families! We hope you have had a lovely and restful Easter break. We are now excited for the new Summer term and looking forward to lots more fantastic learning! Our theme for this half term is: **Paws, Claws and Whiskers** and after half term it is **Amazing Africa!**

## Phonics

Daily Rocket Phonics sessions will resume again this term as we continue to focus on both blending (reading) skills and segmenting (spelling) skills. We will work through the remaining graphemes, whilst also re-visiting previously learned graphemes and 4 blends.

Through a range of activities, the children will have an opportunity to read words; both real and nonsense and also write words and sentences using the graphemes they have learned. The children will also continue to have access to many interactive activities in our classroom, enabling them to learn their phonics through play.

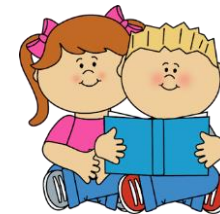
The Year 1 statutory phonics screening is scheduled to take place early in June 2022, so we will also be gearing up for this in coming weeks.

Phonics homework will continue to be sent home via a QR code, giving the children lots of opportunity to practise reading real and alien words.

## Reading

Last term the children made incredible progress in their reading and many children are now beginning to read with fluency. This term, your child will continue to take part in a guided reading session with an adult, twice a week. There will also be opportunities to read individually with an adult on a regular basis. As guided reading sessions occur every day, please ensure your child brings their reading book and reading record to school each day.

We will continue to change books on **Monday** and **Thursday**. We would also encourage you to continue reading with your children at least 3 times per week and record this in their reading records. The reward system for regular home reading will continue to operate and I have topped up my prize box in anticipation!



## English

This term our work will focus on the topic 'Paws, Claws and Whiskers.' A book by Emily Gravett; 'The Odd Egg' will be our inspiration and we will explore the characters and plot before eventually creating a piece of non-fiction writing; an Egg Spotter's Guide.

Moving on from this, we will read a book called 'Meerkat Mail, also by Emily Gravett. Once again, we will explore the characters, the settings and the plot before planning and writing our own story.

In addition to this we will explore new genres of writing, including how to write instructions and how to write a recount of an experience.



## Maths

We will begin this term by securing our understanding of adding and subtracting within 20 and place value to 50/100. We will then focus on multiplication and division. To begin, we will use practical resources to show how objects can be grouped or shared, before moving onto representing this with pictures.

Daily Maths sessions will focus on these strands and we will work in small steps. Whole class and small group activities will give the children the opportunity to consolidate their learning, as will many interactive activities in our classroom which the children can access independently.

We will also continue to work on number bonds to 10/20 and counting in 2's, 5's and 10's - aiming to do this quickly both forwards and backwards.



## Handwriting

Regular handwriting sessions will continue to take place throughout the week. During these sessions, we will focus on writing simple words and sentences in correct, consistent formation.

Please encourage your children to use cursive formations when writing at home.



## Spellings

We will continue to send home weekly spellings. This will give the children the opportunity to practise the phonics patterns they have learned during phonics sessions and also to learn a number of tricky words and useful words.

We will then have our 'Spelling Test' every Friday giving the children the opportunity to recall the spellings they have learned. Please help your child to practise at home.

## Science

During Science we will continue our work on 'Plants' and the children will grow and care for their own plants in the school allotment. They will learn about the basic structure of plants and the conditions they need to grow. The children will also explore the school grounds, studying and identifying a variety of different plants.

As part of our Paws, Claws and Whiskers topic we will also learn about 'Animals.' We will study lots of different animals and describe and compare the structure of a variety of animals, examining their distinct characteristics.

We will also learn how to classify and group animals according to what they eat (carnivore, omnivore and herbivore), their animal type (fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals).

Finally, we will revisit the topic of 'Seasonal Change', in particular the changes and weather associated with the Spring/Summer season.



## Computing

Ms Lawrenson will pick up the weekly Computing session, which takes place each Thursday afternoon.

This term the children will begin to understand what algorithms are and how they are implemented as programs on digital devices. The children will aim to move a programmable toy in different directions, by giving precise, ordered instructions.

## P.E.

P.E. will take place on **Tuesday** and **Thursday** this term. The children should come to school wearing their PE kit on these days and they will stay in their PE kit for the entire day. Please make sure this is the PE kit as detailed on the school newsletter.

The P.E. lesson on Thursday will be taken by Ms Jones, a PE teacher from PHGS. The focus of these lessons will be the development of fundamental movement skills, particularly linked to football.

## RE

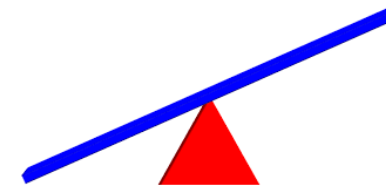
During RE lessons; we will consider which books and stories are special within the different faiths. We will look closely at the Bible, Quran and Torah and consider their importance.

Later in the term, we will think about why and how we care for others. Through a variety of Christian and Muslim stories, the children will develop an awareness of what 'caring' looks like for people of different faith backgrounds.



## Design & Technology

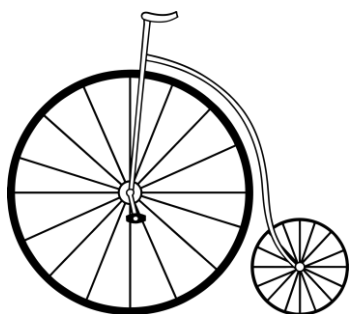
Ms Lawrenson will teach DT this term, and the children will learn about 'Simple Mechanisms' such as a slider or lever. before eventually designing and making their own moving picture, using a simple mechanism.



## History

The focus in our history lessons will be 'Travel and Transport.' We will examine different forms of transport, consider how transport has changed over time, and begin to develop a chronology of automobiles, trains and space travel.

We will also learn about significant individuals such as George Stephenson, the Wright Brothers, Amelia Earhart and Neil Armstrong who have each played a pivotal role in the development of travel and transport over time.



## Geography

We will begin this term by completing our study of Otley. We will use a map to plan a route into Otley and we will visit our local area to pinpoint human & physical features in the environment. To conclude our local area study; we will create a basic map of our local area with labels, key and a title.

Later in the term, the children will focus on 'Our Wonderful World', learning the name, location and characteristics of the 7 continents of the world.

The children will also have the opportunity to compare and contrast Otley, to a location in Kenya, Africa. We will study both the human and physical geography of the locations and the everyday lives of the people who live there.



## PSHE/Global Learning

During PSHE we will be thinking about the things that go into our bodies and onto our skin and how this can make people feel. We will also learn how to identify things that can be harmful.

Later in the term, we will consider where money comes from, how to make good choices when spending money and how to saving money and keep it safe. We will also learn about the different jobs people do

We will also continue to revisit our Global Learning regularly through the Global Goals.



## Art

During Art lessons, the children will use animals as their inspiration to explore different media including painting, collage and sculpture.

In particular, we will look at Australian Aboriginal art work, as well as African landscapes and camouflage patterns.



## Music

Mrs Booth will continue to teach Music on alternate Wednesday afternoons. During Music lessons, the children will study different styles of music, rhythm and composition.



## Homework

The children should aim to read at least 3 x weekly and a record of this should be kept in their reading records.

Phonics homework will be sent home via a QR code, giving the children lots of opportunity to practise reading real and alien words.

Spellings will continue to be sent home and they will be tested each week.

Maths homework takes the form of NumBots and we would ask that children commit 15 minutes per week to practising their fundamental addition and subtraction skills.

## Christian Values

Our Christian Values this term are **Honesty** and **Respect**. The children will be talking about these values in class worship and we will all be trying to demonstrate the values in school.



## Trips

This half term we will take the opportunity to go on several school trips. Our first trip will be a walk into Otley to conduct a geographical survey of the physical and human features in our local area.

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May we will visit Hesketh Farm; where we will feed and pet lots of animals, collect eggs, experience a tractor ride and so much more.

Finally, at the end of this half term, we will visit Mrs Shutt's garden. This trip will conclude our work on 'The Odd Egg' and we will carry out fun, animal related activities such as an animal scavenger hunt, an 'Odd Egg hunt' and egg and spoon races.

