Year 1 Willow
Class Teacher: Miss Jacob
Teaching Assistant: Miss Saied
Learning Support Assistant: Mrs Hassan

Dear Parent or Carer,

Hello and welcome to Year 1 Willow. I hope that you had a wonderful summer holiday. My name is Miss Jacob and I am really looking forward to teaching your children this year. I have been teaching in London for the past five years and enjoy working in a diverse community. My aim is to make sure your child has a happy and successful year in Year 1.

This is our termly letter to introduce you to the topics that will be taught this Autumn term. It details what is being planned for your child’s lessons, the skills, knowledge and concepts that are being developed and the learning objectives taught.

Mathematics
Your child will continue to learn Maths through the Singapore approach which enables children to develop number sense and reasoning skills. We will continue to use this Concrete-Pictorial-Abstract approach to build a solid foundation for conceptual understanding. This term we will cover the following topics:

- Numbers to 10 (Counting objects, writing to 10 and comparing numbers)
- Number Bonds (Making number bonds and making number stories)
- Addition within 10 (Adding by using number bonds, add by counting on, making addition stories and solving picture problems)
English
This term we are focusing on stories about Paddington Bear by Michael Bond.

Writing
The strategy used to teach writing is 'Big Writing' which enables us to teach the children to produce written work that is interesting, grammatically accurate and correctly spelt. The children write at length, once a week, in different text types.

An important part of their writing is the speaking and listening activities linked to the text both in the classroom and at home. As part of their weekly preparation for 'Big Writing' I will be sending home weekly 'Big Talk' homework. This is designed to give parents an opportunity to discuss their children's writing with them and to participate in the imaginative process.

Phonics
We will continue to learn the set 1, 2 and 3 sounds from our phonics scheme. We will be learning how to blend sounds together to make words as well as read and write high frequency words. We teach phonics on a daily basis.

When reading, the children will be encouraged to read with expression and fluency. They will also be encouraged to use other non-phonics strategies, such as looking at the pictures and looking at the whole sentence in order to make a good guess at unknown words.

Reading Books / Library Books
Library books and graded readers continue to be changed every week. This takes place on Wednesday. They will bring home two phonetically decodable reading books and a library book. The library books are for you to share with your child. Please ensure your child has a bookbag at school every day. Please ensure you read with your child daily and record this in their Reading Record book. Any lost books will need to be paid for.

Science
Throughout the year the children will be exploring seasonal change, observing the changes in their surroundings across the four seasons. This term we will be exploring Autumn. We will also be learning about everyday materials, identifying and describing the properties of different materials.

Project
The Autumn term's projects are "Paddington Bear in London". In the first project the children will be learning about maps and looking at land use in the area close to our school. The second half teaches the children about countries around the world through the adventures of Paddington Bear.

Religious Education
The children will learn about belonging to groups and religions and why Christians give gifts at Christmas time.

Art and DT
We aim to link our art to our science lessons and projects to cross curricular learning. This term, we will be studying drawing and painting. We will be building 3D models of Paddington Bear. This is a cross curricular link to our topic.
Music
This is taught by Miss Parker, our music specialist. We will be studying elements of music through action songs and singing games. These include pitch, duration (how long the music takes), fast and slow music and the structure of the music.

Information and Communications Technology
In ICT, the children will be learning about e-safety. They will also be learning the features of a keyboard through the computer program ‘Word’. In particular we will be learning to change the font size, colour and style in Word.

Physical Education
The themes for gymnastics are moving in a wide variety of ways: moving along and across, high and low, in zigzags or straight lines. Our PE scheme aims to develop the key skills of agility, balance and coordination.

Games are taught each week by Mr Graham (Primary Sporting Development). During weekly games lessons we will focus on skills needed for team games. We will work on specific skills such as striking a ball, bouncing a ball, catching a ball and avoiding other players.

Outdoor games is every Monday and indoor PE is on Tuesday, but please send PE kit in on a Friday and take it home on a Tuesday. Please ensure that all of your child’s PE kit is named.

Paddington Bear
To support our project work, every week I will choose a child in the class to take home Paddington Bear and his diary. Please can you help your child to write a diary entry for Paddington Bear about somewhere you have been that weekend? It may be to the shops, the cinema, the park or even somewhere abroad! On the following Monday, your child will have the chance to talk to the class about what Paddington Bear did with them this weekend. If possible please include a photo, drawing or memento from the weekend. Please take good care of Paddington Bear and his diary.

Homework
The homework set for your child is designed to support their learning in class. The school’s homework policy states that your child should receive regular homework.

Big Talk – To give your child the opportunity to do their best pieces of writing we will be sending home Big Talk homework. This gives you an opportunity to speak to your child about what they will be writing and discuss their ideas. This helps the children practise their sentences before writing them in school.

Regular homework is as follows:
Monday: Spelling - this should be practised daily but doesn’t need to be returned.
Wednesday: Big Talk Homework and reading books – read for at least 10 minutes every day.
Thursday: Literacy and Maths - this is to be returned on Monday.
Please remember to use our online learning resources (i.e. Mathletics and Education City) for which your child has user names and passwords.

There may be other additional pieces of homework from time to time.
Discussion about homework is equally useful in your home language if this is not English.

Parents are warmly welcomed to our sharing assembly each Friday afternoon at 2.45 p.m.
Class Trips
This will be confirmed in a separate letter later in the term.

Notices
You will find up-to-date information on events in the school office and also on the school website. The newsletter is sent out by email every Friday afternoon (or a paper copy is sent to those without email). Letters with a parental permission slip will be sent out via the children’s book bags. Please check bookbags daily.

Finally
The support of the family is immensely important where pupil progress is concerned. Here are some of the ways you can help your child make good progress at school:

- Ensure your child gets enough sleep.
- Water Bottles - please provide your child with a water bottle that they can drink from throughout the day. Remember it needs to have a “sports top/ nozzle” to avoid spillage and be labelled with their name. If your child has a packed lunch they will need a separate drink in their lunchbox.
- Ensure reading happens for a short period every day. Be a reader yourself. Encourage your child to read quietly; read to your child; have your child read to you or a sibling; talk with enthusiasm to your children about what they are reading; visit and join the local library.
- Ensure homework is done and returned on time. Encourage your child to relish the challenge of work that is difficult.
- Talk to your child about their learning. Ask them about the learning dispositions they use at school and encourage them to use them. Our West Twyford learning dispositions are: curiosity, bravery, independence, co-operation, creativity, resilience, discipline and making links.
- Praise your child for the effort they put into their learning.

I hope I have given you an insight into life in our classroom and any other issues, which you may have had queries about. I look forward to teaching your children this term, and am confident that we will have an exciting and successful time together.

Please feel welcome to make an appointment with me, Ms Collum, the Deputy Headteacher, or Miss Martin, the Headteacher, if there is anything you need to discuss further.

We are all looking forward to an exciting and challenging year ahead.

Yours faithfully,

Miss Jacob
Class Teacher

Miss Martin
Headteacher