Curriculum Letter
Summer term 2019

Year 1 Willow
Class Teacher: Mrs Darlington
Teaching Assistant: Miss Palmer

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are very much looking forward to working with you to enable your child to achieve the best outcomes at school this term.

This is a letter to inform you of the topics that will be taught during this term. It provides information about the learning opportunities planned for your child and the skills, knowledge and concepts being developed.

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 100 (counting forwards and backwards starting from any given number)
- Money and Time
- Volume and Capacity
- Multiplication and Division including Fractions
- Word Problems

*Please support by counting with your child at home, including number recognition; and continue with practising the number bonds.

English
Genres that we will be studying this Summer Term in Year 1 are:

- Stories with predicatable and patterned texts
- Stories with familiar settings (Narrative)
- Recount fact and fiction (Non-fiction)
• Poems on a theme (Poetry)

English lessons include the following elements:
• Reading (phonic decoding, word reading and comprehension)
• Writing (based on the genres being explored in reading as well as writing about the children's own experiences)
• Spelling, grammar, punctuation and handwriting
• Speaking and Listening

In Writing lessons there will be a particular focus on peer and self-assessment. This means that the children will be developing skills that will enable them to become more independent, knowing where they are in their learning and what their next steps are. Handwriting is a major focus in Writing this term.

Phonics Screening Check
In June, the children in Year 1 throughout the country will all be taking part in a phonics screening check. This happens every year to make sure children have learnt phonic decoding and blending skills to an appropriate standard for their age.

The test contains 40 words and each child will sit one to one and read aloud to a teacher that they know. The list of words the children read is a combination of 20 real words and 20 nonsense or ‘alien’ words which can be sounded out.

The results of these tests will be reported with your child's end of year report.

Please can you support your child with their reading at home to make sure your child achieves their best potential. Use the sound charts provided to support the understanding of phonics. Encouraging your child to take part in the reading challenge is a good way of developing your child’s enjoyment of reading.

Reading Books / Library Books
Library books and graded readers continue to be changed every week. This takes place on Tuesdays. Please ensure your child has a bookbag at school every day. The children must read at home daily and this should be recorded in the Reading Record book. Any lost books must be paid for.

The children have been given a yellow Reading Record. Please make comments on the children’s reading in the spaces provided; this allows us to monitor their reading at home. I will be rewarding the children who have been reading at home with a sticker at the end of every term. The book is a very good way for you to inform me of any concerns you have about your child's reading or to share their enjoyment of the books they are reading.

Science
This term we will be studying Plants. We will be growing various plants from seeds, as well as learning about the different parts of a flower. We will be continuing our ‘Seasonal Change’ topic, learning about Spring and Summer. We will also be learning about ‘Materials’, including testing which materials are best suited for different purposes.
Project
In this term the children will be studying the topic “Dinosaurs”. They will learn to name, recognise and categorise dinosaurs. They will develop an understanding of how and when they lived.

Religious Education
This term the children will be learning from stories.

Art and DT (depending on year group)
This term we will be looking at levers and sliders (moving parts on a tab that can be pulled). The children will be creating a moving image such as you would have in a pop out book.

Music
Music will be linked through our topic and science lessons. This will be done by exploring musical techniques through a seaside theme.

Information and Communications Technology
In ICT, we will be looking at simple programming by learning how to program a BeeBot to move around a map, and using 2Simple programming software to move an icon on screen.

Physical Education
Your child will continue to have two PE lessons per week – one delivered by the sports coach and one by the class teacher.

PE kits should be in school every day i.e. brought in to school on a Monday and taken home on a Friday. Your child will need white or navy sports shorts, T-shirt, jogging bottoms and sweatshirt, as well as socks and trainers all labelled with their name in a named PE bag.

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. Homework is set on Thursday to be returned the following Tuesday.

Regular homework is as follows:
Tuesday: 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. Reading Cloud 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 term we will be visiting Kew Gardens.

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...
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.
- 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; use our new Reading Cloud.
- 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,

L. Darlington

Mrs Darlington
Class Teacher

Miss Martin
Headteacher