

Dear Parents

Welcome back to 'The Nest' and a new year as Year 1 parents.

These past two weeks have flown by and I am happy to say that all the children appear settled and are dealing with all their new routines and tasks confidently and co-operatively and as 'Team Leaders' have been a huge support and impressive role models to the new Reception children.

Our topic this term is 'A basketful of Memories'. Thank you for preparing a 'memory bag' with your child. - the children are enjoying sharing these memories and are extremely confident, when speaking in front of each other. As a history topic, the children will be focusing on theirs and other people's memories, as they develop their understanding of the past, the changes that time brings, as well as learning about timelines.

I have looked out a selection of photos to show my own timeline and would like the children to bring in a few photos of themselves as a baby and toddler, to make their own. Please would you be able to send them in by Friday 26th September. I wondered if you as parents and perhaps the children's grandparents/great grandparents could do the same. All of your photos can be photocopied and your originals returned to you - and no, we don't have to put the dates under them!

If you and/or your parents would like to come in and talk about yours/their timeline and childhood memories, the children and I would make you all very welcome. If any of you have handprint/footprints of your children, when they were babies, could I photocopy them and would you let me know their length and weight at birth, as I would like to use the information in a Numeracy lesson.

After half term, we will be focusing on life a hundred years ago, at the turn of the century. We are trying to arrange a visit to Holdenby House, to look at artefacts, clothes and the daily routines of life 100 years ago, comparing life then with their lives now.

As we move into December, I want to take them even further back along our class timeline, to the time when Jesus came to Bethlehem and share with them the Christmas story, ending the term with a Christmas Nativity performance.

Numeracy this term will be taught both as a whole class and in small work groups. We will continue to use the laptops for RM Maths and our session will be on a Wednesday morning. We will start work this term on place value, where the children will learn to recognise a teen number as a number, which can be partitioned into 10 and some more. They will begin to add 2 numbers by holding the larger number in their head and counting on the smaller. The children will begin to record simple addition and subtraction, reading the signs + and -. They will begin to find the total of 2 coins and tell the time to the hour. We will also learn to read a number in words. Using our 'baby' information, we will also compare length and weight and begin to use a metre stick as a unit of measure.

We started our phonic sessions this week, moving onto a new set of sounds. Mrs Parmiter, Mrs Carpenter and I will meet, once all the assessments have been completed and group all the Year 1 children into appropriate Read, Write Inc, work groups. We also intend for the children to work with an adult, in small, guided reading groups. As part of their developing literacy skills, the children will begin to learn how to join particular letters and start the process of joined handwriting. They will also learn letter names and know how to write upper case letters at the start of each sentence.

PE will continue to be taught weekly on a Tuesday morning, by a peripatetic teacher, during my non contact time. It will also be taught fortnightly on a Monday afternoon. Please would you continue to keep your child's PE kit in school, as there may be other sessions made available to us.

Year 1 children in the Nest, will still have access to the snack table. Mrs Nichols has volunteered to keep us supplied with a lovely selection of breads and other healthy and tasty food to try. Please could I ask you for £7 this term. Fruit will continue to be available throughout the day and please would you provide your child with a water bottle, so that they can have a drink whenever they need one.

Could I also ask you to keep a coat at school, as the weather is about to become more temperamental and the children, as you know, will always go outside to play, unless it's pouring!

As you come into the classroom, you may have noticed the mantle piece clocks on the left. Subtly linked to the topic, this is our home/school link

board. If your child achieves something new at home, please get them to tell us, show their certificate or trophy or whatever it might be and we will write it on the clock to celebrate their success.

If there is anything you want to know about Year 1, or if you are anxious or confused about anything, please come and see me any time after school or ring me if you can not get in that particular day.

Once again, welcome back and here's to another happy and successful year together.

Sally Wharton