Year 1 Newsletter – Autumn 2 2025

Dear Parent/Carers,
Welcome back! During our second half term we will be doing lots of learning that centres around the theme of Citizenship and the World.

Attendance

Sparrow: 97.3% Starling: 97.8%

Target: 97.5%

As readers and writers…

Our writing this half term is based on the story '*The Way Back Home*' by Oliver Jeffers and a virtual trip into the woods. We will teach one grammar specific lesson a week and for the rest of the week we will focus on different plot points from the stories.
We will be learning to develop creative responses to the text through drama and storytelling. By the end of each unit, the children will produce an independent piece of writing inspired by characters from the book.

We will have daily phonics lessons to support children's reading. This half term we will be progressing onto phase 5, where the children will learn some alternative graphemes for the sounds that they know.

As mathematicians…

Place value within 20

We will be learning more about place value and continuing to develop our understanding of counting forwards and backwards to 20. The children will explore different ways of representing and comparing numbers. We will also be exploring reasoning and problem solving.

Addition and Subtraction within 10

We will be developing our number and fluency skills in addition and subtraction of numbers within 10.
The children will deepen their understanding through the use of part whole models, bar models and number lines.

Shapes

We will be learning about 2D and 3D shapes. We will be understanding the differences between them and how to identify each shape.

As scientists…

We are learning about animals including humans – specifically naming and classifying animals. The children will learn about vertebrates and the 5 groups that these animals are categorised into (*mammals, birds, fish, reptiles* and *amphibians*). We will learn about each group in more detail and name animals that belong to that group.

As theologians…

We will be learning about Christianity. Children will explore Interfaith Week by learning how different religions share values of kindness, helping others, and caring for the world. Children will be exploring who helps us, why people help and how to show gratitude and help others.

As musicians…

We will continue to enjoy our Musical Bumps sessions where we are learning all about beat, rhythm and pitch.

As linguists…

We will be learning about Chinese culture and a typical day in the life of a child in China.

As budding techies…

We will practice basic communication skills needed for pair programming; we will identify what counts as personal information and will explore purposes of hardware and technology.

Citizenship and the World

As historians...

- We will learn about the history of toys.
- We will compare the similarities and differences of toys from past to present
- We will compare toys in South Africa to the ones in England, from past to present

As geologists…

- We will learn about South Africa.
- We will know human and physical features of South Africa and will compare England and South Africa.

As good citizens…

- We will be learning about the 5 British Values.
- We will explore each one in more detail and think about how we represent these values.

As artists and designers…

- We will explore printing and colour.
- We will create a primary colour scheme and to create a print with a secondary colour scheme.

Notices and reminders

- PE is on **MONDAY** (Starling), **TUESDAY** (Sparrow) and **THURSDAY** (both classes) every week. Please ensure your child wears their PE kit to school on the relevant day.
- The homework for this term will be in Homework books. This is to be completed weekly and where relevant recorded in books/Showbie.
- Homework will be given out every **Friday** and needs to be handed in by the following **Wednesday** at the latest.
- Please read with your child every day and initial your child's comments.
- Every time you read with your child, please write in their reading record

Year 1 Team

Sparrow
Class Teacher: Mrs Saftoiu

Starling
Class Teacher: Mrs Kalaydzhieva

Year 1 Teaching Assistant: Mrs Turner
Year 1 Extra Support: Mrs Oram