



Head Teacher: Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

Aim High

Never Give Up

Follow Your Dream

Lead By Example

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to year 1! Your child has had a fantastic start to school life in reception, and the year 1 team are very excited about working with you and the children throughout this new school year. Year 1 begins in a very similar way to reception, allowing the children the freedom to express their interests within their learning, and to access provision that links with the current topic.

We will gradually introduce your child to English and Maths sessions, and begin to teach activities through the National Curriculum. Your child's social and emotional needs remain a very important priority, and circle times, songs and games will allow the children to experience a smooth transition into Key Stage 1. In order to keep this transition as simple as possible, we ask that you leave your child at the classroom door – a big part of year 1 is a growing sense of independence and responsibility.

MAIN LEARNING THEME – *Get Out of My Swamp!*

Our topic this half term is based around traditional tales, mainly *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*, *The Gingerbread Man*, *The Three Little Pigs* and *Jack and the Beanstalk*. We will use parts of the film *Shrek* as a starting point to thinking about a variety of characters found in these stories.

The main focus for the learning during this term will be how the characters and events in these stories link to our understanding of the following aspects:

- Naming and sorting materials and their properties (for example, building a little pig's house).
- Retelling traditional tales and beginning to write them down.
- Comparing different settings (such as medieval castles, and buildings of today).
- Identifying plants, and naming the main parts of these.
- Designing and making gingerbread men.
- Use technology to create music and films.
- Explore the seasonal changes from Autumn to Winter.

In order to launch this theme, we are holding a 'Far, Far Away' day on **Thursday 11th September 2014**, and would like the children to come dressed as their favourite character from any traditional tale. If they have any books or toys related to this character (or others) that they wish to bring in to share on this day, then please send these in a named bag on Thursday 11th September.

Key vocabulary for this term: Title, blurb, author, illustrator, character, good, bad, feelings., setting, plot, events.

ENGLISH

Your child will have started learning to read and write through Read, Write Inc during their Reception year, and this will continue in Year 1. Your child will remain in the group that they were working in during the last term, however the adult that they were working with may be different. We assess the children regularly, and as soon as your child is ready to progress into the next group, we will inform you with a slip stating the next steps of learning, and who their Read, Write Inc adult will be.

READING

Please continue to read with, and to, your child at home, including traditional tales and stories. Each week, your child will be given 1 reading book which they can share with you at home. This will be changed weekly on either a Monday or Tuesday, however we would suggest bringing books in every day. Year 1 also have the opportunity to visit the library on these days, and learn about all the different types of books and how to use a library. They will bring home 2 library books, and these will also be changed on a Monday or Tuesday. Thank you for continuing to record your own comments in the reading log books, as this helps us to move your child's reading forward. When your child is ready for the next reading log book, we will issue this to you.

MATHS

This term, your child will continue to experience learning early maths skills through a variety of practical and hands on methods, including the use of the outdoor environment. The children will be focusing on number this term, and will begin to understand the following concepts:

- Patterns and relationships in numbers (for example number bonds to 10).
- Problem solving.
- Reading, ordering, writing and using numbers to 20.
- Adding and subtracting (using practical methods to begin with).

As and when we feel that your child is ready, they will begin to access Assertive Mentoring for Maths, which is a programme that runs across the whole school. This will mean that on a weekly basis, your child will be in a small group to explore the skills needed to problem solve, calculate and use numbers quickly and easily.



PARENT/CARER INVOLVEMENT

During our topic this term, we would like to involve baking and preparing a variety of bakery foods. If anyone has a particular interest in baking, or indeed works for a bakery, we would be very interested to hear from you, and invite you into school to work with the children. We are particularly keen to learn about baking gingerbread men!

We would also request that if you have any cereal boxes or cardboard boxes, please send these into school to assist with some activities based on building castles.

On **23rd October at 2.45pm** we will invite you to a Far, Far Away celebratory banquet, in order to share our learning throughout the theme and to experience our baked goods.

HOME LEARNING

Home learning in year 1 will consist of a weekly piece of both English and Maths skills. These will be given to the children on a Wednesday, to be handed in the following Wednesday.

The children are also invited to complete a half termly home learning project, however this is not compulsory. The theme is *Get Out of My Swamp!* This could be anything to do with traditional tales, for instance a model of a story setting or characters, your child's very own version of the story, or a piece of art work.

TRIPS

The children will experience two local walks this term. One trip will explore Cuckoo's Hollow, where the children will be able to use the natural environment to orally retell a variety of traditional tales. The second trip will be a local walk around Gunthorpe in order to explore the local environment; in particular the man made features. This will aid the children's knowledge and learning about maps and map reading. We will send further communication to you regarding these walks, and will also ask for any volunteers to assist us with these. Your support with this is always greatly appreciated.

PE

PE will be covered in two one hour sessions each week, Monday is outdoor PE and Thursday is indoor PE. However, we ask that the children bring in their complete kit (including plimsolls/trainers) on a Monday, and leave this at school until Friday. Children with long hair will need to have it tied back for safety reasons. Any earrings (studs only are allowed in school) will also have to be removed (by the child) or covered with a plaster (which must be supplied from home).

Your child will require the following PE kit (**Clearly named**):

- Plain white t shirt
- Black/grey shorts
- Tracksuit for outdoor PE
- Socks
- Plimsolls/trainers

SHOW AND TELL

Show and tell will be on a Friday afternoon each week. This is a lovely speaking and listening opportunity, where children can share their experiences, and learn to talk and present to others. If the children do bring an item in to share, it is preferable that this either be related to the topic, or an exciting event/achievement.

HOT SCHOOL MEALS

This year, children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal. If you wish for your child to have hot school meals or funky five, these must be booked in advance.

Mrs L Burnham
Class Teacher

Miss K Gasson
HLTA

Mrs J Dunkley
TA

Mrs D Reynolds
Head Teacher

