



Head Teacher: Mrs D Reynolds - BSc Hons QTS NPQH

Aim High

Never Give Up

Follow Your Dream

Lead By Example

September 2015

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 – School Days

Our topic this half term is based around the history of schools, and how things have changed since the Victorian times. We are also celebrating Norwood school's 40th birthday!

The main focus for the learning during this term will be:

- Comparing modern day school and schools in the past, identifying similarities and differences.
- Creating a time line and ordering photos of schools.
- Looking at the children's local environment and identifying the key features of the school.
- Identifying and describing differences between old and new schools.
- Knowing by heart a range of playground songs and rhymes.

We will be building an ideal school over the following weeks, so any donations of plastic bottles, cardboard tubes and (small) cardboard boxes would be gratefully received!

Key vocabulary for this term: Victorian, school, past, old, present, older, newer, modern, memories, playground, song, rhyme, similarities, differences, memories.

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 2 reading books which they can share with you at home. One of these will be a book they have previously read and enjoyed, and the other will be a brand new book. This will be changed weekly, however we would suggest bringing books in every day. Year 1 also have the opportunity to visit the library each week, and learn about all the different types of books and how to use a library. They will bring home a library book, and these will also be changed weekly. If you have any queries about your child's progress in reading, please do not hesitate to ask. We have a variety of games that we can suggest to help you to support your child with reading at home.



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 focussing 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).

PARENT/CARER INVOLVEMENT

One of the key elements of this term's learning will be understanding the similarities and differences between school now and in the past. If you have any photos of yourself or your parents at school, for instance class photos, we would love to show these to the children so that they can understand differences and similarities in a real context.

Towards the end of term, at **2.30pm on Tuesday 13th October**, we would like to invite you onto our modern day playground to partake in (and invent!) some modern and historical playground games. All welcome, from siblings to grandparents. We will send a letter nearer the time to give you further information.

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. English home learning this term will be writing tasks related to our topic, this will help the children to practise their writing skills. Maths home learning will also be mini projects based on our topic, to support mathematical skills in a real-life context.

The children are also invited to complete a half termly home learning project, however this is not compulsory. The theme is *School Days*. You will receive a Pow Project sheet in the first week of term with details of ideas for your child's projects – this term there is a choice of 'Our school' or 'Victorian schools'. It is suggested that the children can choose project ideas that total 5 Pow points from across the two areas, and therefore earn 5 house points.

TRIPS

This term the children will be exploring the school and its locality. However next term, we look forward to a trip to Peterborough Museum. We will send you a letter in the first few weeks of term to give you more details about this exciting opportunity.

PE

PE will be covered in two one hour sessions each week, the day for outdoor PE is weather dependent and **Tuesday** 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 Monday 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

Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal. Your child can have a hot meal option or 'funky five' packed lunch style meal. These do not need to be booked in advance.

Mrs L Burnham
Class Teacher

Mrs J Dunkley
Teaching Assistant

Mrs C Fox
Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Mrs D Reynolds
Head Teacher

