



Class 1 Newsletter

Term 3

Be the BEST You Can Be

Whatever you do, do with all your heart. Colossians 3:23

WELCOME!

A very Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to Term 3! We hope you have had a lovely Christmas break and are raring to go in 2022! We have a busy and fun term ahead of us.

This newsletter, plus other information about the term, can also be found on the Class 1 page of the school website.

What we are learning

Our topic this term is *Take One Book*. Our main book focus in Class 1 will be Julia Donaldson's wonderful Gruffalo story. The children will start by experience role play with the different characters and learn to join in with the text as it becomes very familiar. There are lots of activities which you might like to look at online at <http://www.gruffalo.com/>. We will also be reading and comparing other Julia Donaldson stories and using these stories for both rich writing and speaking and listening opportunities.

In Maths, we will start the term by exploring aspects of Geometry/shape where we will be consolidating our understanding of the properties of 2D shapes and learning more about common 3D shapes. The rest of the term, our focus will be number and we will be working on place value and addition and subtraction within 20.

Our focus in Science is Animals, including Humans which we be continuing from last term. We will be looking at how the human body is similar and different to different animal species. We will group animals according to their characteristics.

We will be considering how should we live our lives in RE and explore how religions and other beliefs/stories affect approaches to moral issues and living life well and making good decisions.

PE, this term, will be on a Wednesday. This term we will be working on Dance and we have Libby the dance coach to work with us again. We look forward to sharing our Gruffalo-inspired dance with you at the end of the term...

In DT, our project this term will be making finger puppets. We will look at different types of puppets and practise some basic sewing skills before designing, cutting out, sewing and decorating our own. The children always love this project.

In ICT our topic is Lego Builders. This unit encourages children to begin to think logically about scenarios. Children will be introduced to the term 'algorithm'. This concept is at the core of coding. The next unit (Maze Explorers), builds upon this, linking logical thought processes to the way that computers are programmed.

For Music we will be learning to sing and accompany a song called *In The Groove*. It is a song that was specially written for classroom use to teach children about different styles of music. This is a very easy song to learn and has been arranged in six different styles; Blues, Baroque, Latin, Bhangra, Folk and Funk.

Reading and Homework

As you know, last term we started using a new reading programme that links to our Little Wandle Phonics programme. We have a 'Reading Squad' of 4 adults - teachers and TA - who hear a group read 3x weekly. The first session focusses on vocabulary, the second on prosody (use of expression and tone) and finally on comprehension. These books are very tightly phonetically progressive and together with our daily phonics will scaffold and build our Year 1 children's reading skills.

The books the children are reading during Guided Reading sessions are available online using the link below. I sent home the logins last term but let me know if you need it again. Follow the link...

<https://ebooks.collinsopenpage.com/>

We will still continue to change and send books home for the children to read but we will be hearing them read during guided reading sessions and not from these books. Homework in Year 1 is still **reading daily**. Please, where possible, write a comment or simply sign the children's reading folder so we know that the book has been read.

I will continue to send phonics homework home weekly that links to what we are doing that week at school.

Dates for this term

Week beginning Mon 17th Jan – Clubs begin (though not Dance Club as there is a staff meeting)

Mon 24th Jan – Dance Club

Week beginning Mon 14th Feb – Book Week

Wed 16th Feb – Bedtime Story 6-7pm

Maths – KiRFs

Our *Key Instant Recall Facts* for this term is...

I can count in 2s, 5s and 10s.

If you have any opportunities to practise this at home, that would be really useful. We start by counting up in 2, 5 and 10 from 0 and as the children start to become more confident with it, we equate this to timetables facts...

e.g. 1x2, 2x2....

3 lots of 2,

4 groups of 2

5 multiplied by 2 etc...

A copy of this term's KIRF knowledge organiser is attached to this newsletter.

...and finally

If there are any face-painters out there, we may call on your services at the end of the term if you are willing when we bring our topic on The Gruffalo to its conclusion with a fun Gruffalo-inspired tea party. We will face paint the children (if they want) to make them one of the characters from the story and then feast upon *roasted fox* sandwiches, *scrambled snake* and *owl*-ice cream!

As always, please grab us at the gate if you need to ask or talk to us about something or send me a message through Dojo. If you want to let me know about someone else collecting your child at the end of the day, I may not always pick it up on Dojo so it may be better to phone the office instead.

Here's to a great term and a settled and happy 2022.