



Bishop William Ward C of E (VA) Primary School

Happy, respectful, life-long learners

Headteacher: Mr Toby Bull

September 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Yr 1! I am so pleased to see all of the Year 1 children return to school after a somewhat difficult lockdown and summer holiday. The children have settled well into the class, even though the table layouts and daily routines are different to what they have been used to.

The children's mental well-being is of the utmost importance to us and for this reason we will be holding daily mindfulness sessions where the children learn to train their attention to the present moment without dwelling on what has happened in the past or worrying about the future.

Our curriculum: Our long-term plan can be found on the school website; there you will find a breakdown of what we will be doing each term for each subject.

During the first few weeks, children are carrying out assessment activities which will enable us to plan for their needs due to the learning they might have missed.

Our theme this half term: We are beginning the year by focusing on Toys. As a class we have decided to call our theme 'The Wonderful World of Toys'. The children are very excited and have already been on a toy hunt around the school field. They have also thought of questions about toys that they would like answered.

Reading: The school reading books are organised in numbered steps. An adult in school will move your child to the next step when we feel it is appropriate. However, if you feel that your child is ready to move on to more challenging books, please make a note for us in their reading diary. The children can change their books as frequently as you/they prefer. The best time for the children to do this is first thing in the morning.

Daily reading: We hear children read all sorts of texts across the curriculum in school. It will really benefit your child for you to read with them as often as you can as well. A little each day is better than one long session a week. Please do make a note in their reading diary of any reading they do at home. The expectation is that you will hear your child read at least four times a week.

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PE: Our PE days are Mondays and Fridays. Please ensure your child has their kit in school, earrings are taken out and long hair is tied back. At present, all P.E. sessions are carried out outside. For this reason, please ensure that your child has a pair of tracksuit trousers to wear as no doubt the weather will get cooler as the term progresses.

PE outdoor shoes: The children find it easier outside in trainers. These need to be named, and only with laces if they can do them independently please.

Homework: Maths and spellings will be given out later this half term. More details will follow.

Water bottles: Please ensure that your child has a named water bottle in school.

Book bags and pencil cases: Book bags are perfect for your child to carry their reading books and letters in; they also perfectly fit into their drawers. We would encourage all children to use the school book bag rather than bring in a larger backpack - our cloakroom can become very cluttered and it really helps if we can reduce the amount of bags in there. The children have all been given a pencil case and pencils etc to use in school so do not need to bring any items in from home.

Class Dojo: You should have now received a letter inviting you to sign up to Class Dojo. Through this you will be able to see some of the work we get up to in Year 1, as well as other useful notes and messages.

And finally: If you would like to speak to me about anything, do please let me know. At present, it will be easier sending me in a message via the office or messaging me on Class Dojo.

My aim is for your child to be very happy in Year 1, that they enjoy school and are motivated and excited by our curriculum. Your support is very much valued in helping to achieve this.

Thank you,

Miss Higgs

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