

# Year 1 Newsletter : Autumn 1 2021

All of the staff in Year 1 would like to welcome back the children, parents and carers into the new academic year. We hope you have had a fantastic summer break and are looking forward to a new year of exciting learning! It is important to note that the curriculum in Year 1 will be very different to the Early Years Framework in Reception. Lessons will still be fun and engaging however they will also be more formal and structured. We will try our best to support your child in their transition into Year 1, however should you have any concerns do not hesitate to make an appointment with the office to speak to a member of Year 1 staff.

Many thanks,  
Miss Stone, Ms Kumari and Miss Teague

## **Thematic Learning**

This term our thematic topic is 'What Can I See Around Me?' and will allow children to explore the local area with a focus on Bentley and Walsall.

This topic links mainly to Geography as children will be visiting the locations stated above and finding significant landmarks. They will use maps to locate their homes and plot their journey to school. We would appreciate if you could talk to your child about their route to school and the key places they pass along the way to help with their learning.

Our History work will focus on significant figures such as Sister Dora and King Charles II who hid at Bentley hall during the Civil War. We will also be looking at how they are remembered in the names of streets and buildings in our local area.

In Art we will be taking a visit to the Art Gallery and learning how to sketch a landscape of Walsall using shading.

We will also be focusing on our school value 'Be Responsible'. The children will understand the importance of keeping our school and local area clean and tidy by doing a litter pick.

## **Science**

In Science, Year 1's topic will be 'Everyday Materials and Their Properties'. This will involve investigating which materials are waterproof or absorbent in order to create an umbrella to keep Teddy dry.

## **Dates for your diary**

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> September-** local litter pick  
**Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> September-** walk around Bentley

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October-** Walsall Art Gallery visit

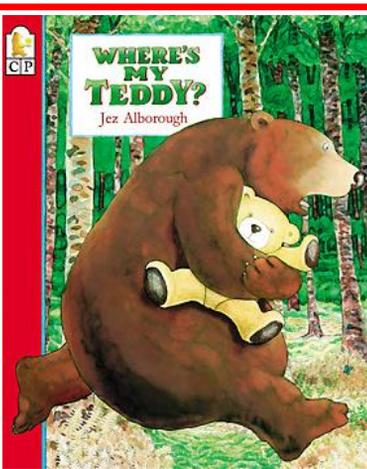
**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October-** Harvest Festival (details to follow, subject to Covid)



## **P.E**

Please remember that there is a requirement that your child wears a white t-shirt, dark bottoms and appropriate footwear for P.E.

P.E kits should be brought in on Monday and taken home on Friday to be washed.



### Literacy and Phonics

In Literacy we will be continuing to develop phonics skills in order to improve children's reading and writing. We will begin with recapping all of the sounds children have learnt so far and teach some new ones. Our text focus for this term is 'Where's My Teddy?' by Jez Alborough. This story allows for lots of opportunities to develop children's use of language as they will be writing descriptions of the setting and characters and retelling the story in their own words. In particular we will be focusing on writing in full sentences, using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.

### Numeracy

Year 1 Numeracy will begin with securing the children's knowledge of number, counting from 1-20 and then from 0-100. They will learn the number names, recognise the numerals and know how to count forwards and backwards. Year 1 will also explore addition and subtraction using practical methods and begin to use written methods, such as number-lines. We will also be learning the names of 2D and 3D shapes and their properties. To conclude the term, Year 1 will be measuring the length and height of different objects and begin to record this using centimetres.

### Attendance and Punctuality

The continued message from last year is of course that 'Every Day Matters' - Every day that your child misses is a day of learning lost. Please support us by ensuring that your child attends school every day and is in school ready to start their learning on time. This is particularly crucial after the missed learning that the Covid-19 school closures may have caused.

### Homework

In Year 1, children are expected to develop some independent work skills. This includes reading (approx 10 minutes per night). We are trying to encourage a love of reading at County Bridge and would love you to share some of your favourite books, stories, poems etc. with your child. Reading books will also be sent home from school which **MUST** be brought to school every day to be used in Guided Reading sessions.

Your child will also have a Reading Journal - We encourage you to write in this book once a week when you hear your child read. We would really love to create a dialogue between parents and school.

After the success of using Purple Mash as a learning tool during the period of home learning, we have decided that this is how we will now deliver homework tasks across the school. This will not only engage the children, but it will also cut down on items being brought back and forward from school. Homework will be set on a Friday and the deadline for completion will be Wednesday a.m - this way children will be able to speak to their teachers on Monday or Tuesday if there is anything that they don't understand.

Individual spellings will also be set weekly on Purple Mash. Your child is expected to learn their spellings by carrying out Look, Cover, Write & Check and then use the spellings in context by writing different sentences.

Your child will also receive a Thematic Homework Challenge this week. This has been designed to encourage collaborative work between children and their parents. It can be handed in at any point during the half term and should reflect children's learning in school.