

Autumn Term 2021 – Curriculum Letter for children in Year 1

Dear Parents,

Welcome to a new school year at Dropmore. The children have settled in well are enjoying their new learning environment. I am very happy with how well they have remembered our morning routine. This letter is to outline what we hope to cover in this very busy term!

School Values:



Our Core value this term is Independence. In Year 1 they will still be expected to complete a morning routine each day to prepare themselves for school, and they will be asked to care for their own pencil cases and books. They will soon be given monitor jobs to assist me in creating a calm and safe space to learn in, giving them ownership of their learning environment.

Core Curriculum:

English

All of our learning in English is taught through quality texts to inspire and guide the children in their learning. Each lesson will give the children a chance to practise reading and comprehension skills. Throughout this term we will be covering a range of text types in our writing sessions:

- Fiction: Stories with Familiar Settings and Christmas Tales
- Poetry: Songs and Traditional Poems focusing on patterns and rhymes
- Non-Fiction: labels, Lists and Information texts

We will have weekly handwriting sessions, and there will be daily Phonics/Spelling sessions starting at 9:00. During this term we will also start guided reading: in these sessions the children will learn new reading skills, develop their fluency and comprehension, and an adult will hear each child read independently during this time.

Maths

At Dropmore we follow the White Rose framework, focussing in broadening mathematical knowledge before moving on to a new skill: this process is known as learning for maths mastery. The children will be learning how to use a variety of equipment, models, mathematical strategies and reasoning techniques to work towards Maths Mastery. During the Autumn term they will start all lessons using objects/equipment before recording their work as pictures or in numbers/symbols.

This term we will be revising and covering:

- Place value within 10 (including counting, ordering, grouping, comparing and ordinal numbers)
- Addition and subtraction within 10 (including fact families, number bonds, adding, finding part, subtraction, counting back, comparing number sentences)
- 2D and 3D shapes (recognising and sorting, patterns)
- Place Value within 20 (including writing numerals and words, tens and ones, comparing, ordering)

Science:

While the weather is nice we will use our science lessons to develop our knowledge of the seasons, focusing particularly on Autumn. We will observe and describe the changes in weather, plants and animal behaviours. For the rest of the term we will be learning about ourselves, including parts of the body and the senses. We will also be learning about materials and their uses.

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Concept Curriculum:

We are so excited to share our concept curriculum for this term! For more information see the Topic Map.

- Curriculum Content = Space
- Skills focus = art & design and design technology
- Concepts = creativity, fear, consequences
- Enquiry question = How do we manage the fear of the unknown?

Music

We will be following Music Express curriculum-based music scheme, linking music to science, maths, English and PE. We will be exploring sounds, beat and pitch in our weekly music lessons. The children will also be learning many new songs and rehearsing known songs for our Harvest Assembly and Nativity.

Computing (taught by Mrs Streete):

We will start the term reminding ourselves of some important e-safety rules: not sharing our username and password and remembering to logoff when finished. The children will be using technology purposefully to create digital content. They will produce a two-paged Power Point Presentation: "Who Am I?".

Wellbeing Curriculum:

PE (Physical Education)

On Wednesdays, the children will learn a sport with our external coach (Joanne Odro), for this half term it will be Volleyball and after half term they will be learning basic gymnastics.

On Fridays we will do PE activities that further develop their balance, coordination and agility as well as their personal, social and cognitive abilities such as following instructions; working positively within a team; challenging ourselves and supporting and encouraging others.

On Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays the children will participate in Mile-a-Day, where they will have 10 minutes to travel around the field scoring points for their house. The Mile-a-Day Cup is handed out at the end of term. All children should have (ideally waterproof) trainers in school.

PSHE (Personal, Social and Emotional Development)

As well as being woven throughout the curriculum and enhanced during regular 'well-being' assemblies, the children will participate in a weekly PSHE lesson. They will follow the 'Jigsaw' scheme and this term will complete activities related to 'Being Me in My World' and 'Celebrating Difference', as well as other lessons to focus on Dropmore and British Values. These lessons will specifically focus on enhancing each child's ability to recognise that we are all special and unique, developing a positive sense of themselves and others and learning to manage their feelings and behaviour to ensure that they work within our school rules.

RE (Religious Education)

R.E is also woven throughout our concept curriculum and enhanced in specific RE lessons. Children will develop their knowledge and understanding of different Religions, beliefs and practices, including festivals. A significant focus of our wellbeing curriculum is identifying similarities and celebrating differences. This term we will be mainly learning about Christianity, and we will also look at festivals from other religions that take place during this term.

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REMINDERS:

- **Reading** - It is important that your child **reads** aloud to an adult **every day**. A book does not have to be completed in one session, but should be read at least twice for comprehension and resilience. To help with fluency it is important to ask you child to repeat a sentence after they have decoded it. Modelling reading techniques is invaluable. When your child is fluent (can read a sentence and only need to decode one word), you should also ask them about what they have read to check their understanding. You can support your child further by reading to your child from books and magazines above their reading ability to expand their vocabulary and comprehension. **PLEASE** remember to use the activities in your child's reading diary, and make informative comments of how they are reading at home. Book changing days will be on **Tuesdays and Fridays**.
- **Phonics** – please continue to practise the letter sounds, but **please take care** that you are using the **pure sounds** (mm not muh for 'm'). Please copy this link for a Department of Education approved video demonstration. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqhXUW_v-1s
- **PE** - We have PE on a **Wednesday** and **Friday** afternoon. The children have already had one practise changing session in school. Please help them practise undoing and doing up buttons, and turning clothes inside out at home.
- Starting on **Wednesday 21st Sept** we will have our weekly spelling test. These are differentiated so that all children can achieve at their personal level. Spelling books should be handed in every Wednesday. These will be marked and returned with the new spelling words on the **Friday (to start on the 17th)**.
- **Library** – Year 1 have their library session on a Thursday morning. We will start this on Thursday 16th.
- **Maths targets** – These will be sent home near the end of the half term with further information. Like reading, these targets ideally should be practised every day (little and often, 5 minutes max!). The children will need to hand them in on a Friday and they will need to demonstrate the skill on three consecutive occasions in school before receiving their next step.
- **Keyrings** – due to the lack of space in individual trays please can there be no more than **1 small keyring** on your child's bookbag.

And finally, please join us online on **Wednesday 15th September at 4.15pm** for an informal, but very informative virtual session where we will talk about the year ahead specific to Year 1 and you will have an opportunity to ask questions. Further details will be sent to you shortly. We do hope to see all of you there!

We are looking forward to working together and an exciting year ahead!

Miss Tolmie