



Dunster First School

Headteacher: Peter Hoyland

September 2016

Dear Parents/ carers

I am writing to outline some of the main points covered in the Year 1 curriculum meeting held on Wednesday.

A typical day in Year 1:

Before school play
Register
Phonics (20 min every day)
Literacy
Fruit Break (milk/water)
Assembly/SEAL
Morning play in small playground
Mathematics
Group reading or interventions

LUNCH
Playtime in small playground
Afternoon register
Topic Work
Afternoon play in big playground
Topic work or handwriting
Home time

Curriculum Content

In Year 1, we enjoy shared learning time with the Reception class each week offering practical sessions to enhance their learning in a number of subject areas especially mathematics and science. We also share our outdoor learning sessions with the Reception class. Their time outdoors is purposeful and ties into their current learning objectives across the curriculum.

Phonics

In Year 1, we continue to use the **Letters and Sounds** system for Phonics. It is taught for approximately 20 minutes every day and is differentiated to cater for different levels of ability:

- phonemes
- phoneme flashcards
- blending for reading
- segmenting for writing (spelling)
- tricky words (high frequency words)

Phonics Screening Checks

In June, all Year 1 children will be completing phonics screening checks. The purpose of these checks is to confirm that all pupils have learned phonic decoding to an age-appropriate standard.

Tel: 01643 821254

Fax: 01643 821243

office@dunster.somerset.sch.uk

www.dunsterschool.ik.org

13 St Georges Street
Dunster, Minehead
TA24 6RX



Somerset Total Communication



Member 2015-2016

The children use their phonic skills to read real words but also nonsense (alien) words which tests their ability to use only synthetic phonics.

Literacy

We have a big focus on reading. We do shared reading using big books or the SmartBoard, guided reading in groups once a week with the class teacher and the children work their way through the reading scheme books. They can also take home sharing books from the class library (fiction or non-fiction) and these are changed every Friday at book time. In Literacy lessons the children write their weekend news, write labels, lists and captions, stories and poems. They are encouraged to learn and recite poems through the year. The children will learn lots of skills, including learning to use full stops and capital letters correctly, using clear finger spaces between their words and simple grammar including learning about adjectives and nouns.

Speaking and Listening

The children develop their skills in speaking and listening during show and tell, circle time, whole class work, group work and pair work.

Handwriting

We follow an agreed school handwriting style which prepares the children for learning to join their handwriting in Year 2. The children learn how to form their letters correctly and the 'tails' or 'exits' so that they are ready to join their letters together in the future. The children do magic writing in air, use whiteboards and their handwriting books to practise. We spend time focussing on their name, making sure they only use a capital letter for the first letter and then focus on individual letters which ties into their phonics work. The letters are taught in 'handwriting families' which helps children learn the correct formation. There is examples of the school handwriting style attached to this letter.

Mathematics

In Mathematics lessons the children learn:

- Mental calculations e.g. number bonds to 20
- Number formation and numbers from 1-20 in words
- Counting/ordering numbers to 20/100 and beyond
- Addition and subtraction
- Money - coin recognition, totalling money, finding change
- Shapes - 2D and 3D
- Measures - length, time, mass, capacity and volume
- Simple problem solving - word problems
- Data handling e.g. tables, bar charts, pictograms
- Using arrays for simple multiplication

Topic Work

Each half term has a general theme under the following headings. These coincide with the Reception Class topics to allow for shared learning.

Autumn Term:

All about me and new beginnings
Special times and light

Spring Term:

Things that move and keeping safe

Tel: 01643 821254

Fax: 01643 821243

office@dunster.somerset.sch.uk

www.dunsterschool.ik.org

13 St Georges Street
Dunster, Minehead
TA24 6RX

A sense of time, growth and living things

Summer Term:

Travel, materials and changes

Science

Science Lessons in Year 1 tie in with overall topic work. The children learn through very practical activities. They start to use investigative skills and learn more about the world around them. They will learn about Seasonal Change throughout the year as each season passes.

Autumn Term: All about me (Animals, including Humans) / Special times and light

Spring Term: Things that move and keeping safe / Growing Plants

Summer Term: Materials

History

In History lessons in the Autumn Term, the children will learn about 'Homes of the Past' (All About Me), with reference to their own homes and local area. We will visit the Dunster Castle kitchens and have a workshop session led by the Museum of Somerset team in school. After half term the children will learn about Remembrance Day (Special Times) and present the school assembly in November. In the Spring Term, the children will learn about Victorian Schools (A Sense of Time), studying our own school and visiting Allerford Museum. In the Summer Term, the children will learn about The Great Fire of London, with a focus on looking at evidence and famous people in history.

Geography

In Geography lessons in the Autumn Term, the children will do a local study of Dunster in the topic 'Around our School' (All About Me). In the Spring Term they will learn about 'Life in Peru' and in the Summer Term they will focus on 'Where in the World is Barnaby Bear?' (Travel). We will find out about places relevant to the children's holidays or family backgrounds. The children will learn map skills, explore the local environment, compare places and learn about other cultures.

RE

One session a week is dedicated to RE, focussing on Christianity and Judaism. We also learn about religious festivals including Harvest, Diwali, Hannukah, Christmas and Easter.

Autumn: Where do we belong? (Friends, Family and Community) - Who is important to them and why

Spring: How do we celebrate our journey through life? (Milestones in Family Life) - Birthdays, Weddings, Baptisms, Anniversaries

Summer - Why are some places special? Focus on Christian church

Art

Autumn: Self Portrait (All About Me) - drawing, painting, photo montage, mixing colours

Spring: Picture This! - experimenting with materials, techniques and finding out about famous artists

Summer: Sculpture (Materials and Changes) - natural materials, clay, pipe cleaners

DT

In DT, we learn skills to help us design, plan, make and evaluate

Tel: 01643 821254

Fax: 01643 821243

office@dunster.somerset.sch.uk

www.dunsterschool.ik.org

13 St Georges Street
Dunster, Minehead
TA24 6RX

Autumn: Fruit and Vegetables (All About Me) - Making a healthy fruit salad
Spring: Shadow Puppets (Things That Move) - Using split pins, levers etc
Summer: Puppet Show (Materials) - Make a character from a story using chosen technique e.g. hand puppet, spoon puppet, finger puppet

Music

Autumn: Beat and Rhythm - Keeping a steady beat, clapping a rhythm
Spring: Exploring Sound - Controlling the volume, speed
Summer: Exploring Instruments and Symbols - Become conductors

There are regular opportunities for singing in class and at assemblies as well as opportunities to perform at Harvest/Easter services and the Christmas Nativity.

Computing

The children will learn how to:
Use the keyboard to type their name, using the shift key to make a capital letter
Develop mouse skills
Use a painting program
Use a floor robot (beebot)
Play simple adventure games
Log on and off the school computers
All ICT skills to be linked to their topic theme
E-safety
Use iPads
Make a simple movie
Take photographs

PE

Tuesday mornings and Wednesday afternoons. (PE days may change in the Spring & Summer Terms)

In PE lessons the children will develop their control and coordination. Over the year they will do multi skills, gymnastics, athletics, outdoor adventure activities, dance, health and fitness walks, and swimming.

They can practise these skills at home too e.g. playing football, practising catching and throwing a ball, learning how to skip...

Please can long hair be tied back and micropore tape provided to cover earrings if they cannot be taken out.

Outdoor Learning

Every Monday morning Year 1 children will be going outdoors - whatever the weather!

We will use this time to go on local walks and visits, use the school field, the nature garden, playground etc

The children will be helping us to develop the top end of the school field, planting bulbs in the coming weeks and growing plants from seeds in the Spring Term which complements their Science topic. Their time outdoors will be purposeful and tie into their current learning objectives across the curriculum.

Children need to have a pair of wellies kept in school, in a named bag please.

Tel: 01643 821254

Fax: 01643 821243

office@dunster.somerset.sch.uk

www.dunsterschool.uk.org

13 St Georges Street
Dunster, Minehead
TA24 6RX

SEAL

Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning

Seven themes covered in assembly and continued during circle time activities:

- 1) New beginnings (familiarisation of being in Year 1) - AUTUMN
- 2) Getting on and falling out - AUTUMN
- 3) Good to be me - SPRING
- 4) Going for goals - SPRING
- 5) Relationships - SUMMER
- 6) Changes (transition to Year 2) - SUMMER

Homework

Homework is an important part of the children's learning and reinforces what they do at school. Please read very carefully the details in the school's homework policy which will help you to help your child. Try to make homework fun and enjoyable and not a chore. It helps to set a time and to provide a quiet, calm place for homework to happen.

In Year 1, your child will get the following homework:

- Reading regularly with your child and sign the reading diary.
- Fridays - activities on yellow paper
- From Spring Term - spellings, using look, say, cover, write, check technique - tested every Friday.

Reading Diaries and Bookbags

Reading books and diaries need to be in school every day. Please note the page number that your child has reached and sign or initial it. Please feel free to write any comments about your child's reading or other messages in the Reading Diary.

Reading diaries are sometimes used to send home notes and messages and they also contain some key dates, so please check these when reading with your child.

Please read with your child the 'Home School Agreements' and 'Pupil Acceptable Use Policies' you will find in the front of the reading diaries and sign them.

If you feel that your child is ready to change their reading book, please put the bookbag into the plastic box left out on the table. If your child is not ready to change their book please can they place their bookbag in their drawer? To encourage independence, children should get into the habit of putting any letters or dinner slips in the red tray left out on the table each morning before putting their bookbag away.

Behaviour & Anti-bullying

At Dunster First School we have high expectations of behaviour. All staff work hard to have a clear and consistent approach to behaviour. Through SEAL and other aspects of the curriculum we encourage the children to follow the school's five golden rules:

1. We are kind and friendly.

Tel: 01643 821254

Fax: 01643 821243

office@dunster.somerset.sch.uk

www.dunsterschool.ik.org

13 St Georges Street
Dunster, Minehead
TA24 6RX

2. We look after our school and everything in it.
3. We help and respect each other.
4. To are polite to everyone.
5. We move carefully around the school.

Dunster First School takes a very serious approach to dealing with bullying. Through SEAL, Anti-bullying week, E-safety work and other aspects of the curriculum, we work hard to help children understand what is meant by the term bullying and prevent bullying occurring. However we also encourage the children to report any incidents of bullying to a member of staff.

If you are concerned about bullying then your first point of contact should be me. I will listen to your concerns; explain the school procedures and policy for dealing with alleged incidents of bullying and then follow these procedures. I will always contact you to let you know how the incident has been dealt with.

Attendance

Please inform the school if your child will not be attending for any reason.

If we do not receive a message, we will try to contact you to ensure your child is safe and accounted for. Unauthorised absence will be noted and kept on your child's record.

The 100% attendance certificates will be issued again each term and at the end of the summer term for the whole year.

Medical Problems

Please inform the school if your child has any short or long term medical problems such as food allergies or asthma.

Snack & Lunchtimes

Children in Year 1 continue to receive free fruit as a morning snack and have access to their water bottles throughout the day. Therefore you do not need to send your child in with a snack. If your child would like milk then please contact Mrs Thrush in the school office or go to www.coolmilk.com for more details.

All children in year 1 are also entitled to free school meals. Please see Mrs Thrush for more details if you wish your child to have free school meals.

Helping at school

Throughout the year there are many opportunities to come into school and help. These include becoming a reading volunteer, joining us for trips/ walks, coming into the classroom to help with specific lessons or helping with changing for swimming. The help from volunteers is invaluable and much appreciated. **All volunteers have to be DBS checked.** If you are interested in helping then please contact Mrs Thrush for a DBS form.

Friends of Dunster First School (FODS)

The Friends of Dunster First School (FODS) are always encouraging parents / carers to attend meetings and get involved with the fundraising activities and social events that are organised to help further the education of your children at school.

Finally

If you have any concerns about your child's work or behaviour or would just like a chat to see how things are going, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time

Tel: 01643 821254

Fax: 01643 821243

office@dunster.somerset.sch.uk

www.dunsterschool.ik.org

13 St Georges Street
Dunster, Minehead
TA24 6RX

Thank you to those of you who attended the Curriculum Meeting or who gave their apologies. I hope that the meeting was informative.

Yours faithfully

Angela Hall
Year One Teacher