



Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Curriculum Information Year 1 – Autumn Term 2019**

Welcome to year 1! I hope everyone has had a fantastic, sunny summer break. First of all I would just like to take this opportunity to say how excited I am to be working with this class in year 1 and I hope you are just as excited about our year ahead together. This term is a very important transition period for the children. Therefore, as a team we aim to make the transition as smooth and enjoyable for you and your child as possible.

Before the holidays I was lucky enough to spend 2 whole weeks with the children, which allowed me to get to know them both personally and academically. Throughout this time, I completed baseline assessments and ensured I had 1:1 time with each child. During the first week I will continue to spend time 1:1 and in small groups ensuring I know exactly what I can do to help each child reach their full potential. I feel strongly about working alongside parents and carers therefore I want to ensure there is a constant link between home and school. I also want parents and families to feel confident to offer ideas and ask for advice whenever they feel necessary.

Six weeks will feel like a lifetime to the children, therefore during the first week I will discreetly be assessing the children's phonetic understanding and be setting them up with some high frequency words that can be practiced as their spellings. These can be found in their orange home journals. I hope by starting the year this way, will provide your child with some comfort and confidence in the classroom and year ahead.

### **English**

Throughout this first term I will ensure the transition is as smooth as possible for the children and the routines are they have been used too. The children will be involved in a whole class direct teach then work in small groups on focused activities alongside an adult. When not working with an adult the children will have independent challenges to complete. The aims of the challenges are to consolidate learning from the previous week and to promote independence. The challenges will be differentiated starting with 1 star and working up to 3 stars to challenge the children further in their learning. We are calling them "Year 1 star challenges" the format of the challenges is similar to Reception. The only difference is that they must complete the 4 challenges before they can access the rest of the classroom freely. I have also decided to reward one child each week for their independent challenge time with a special prize, however all children will be rewarded each week once they have completed their challenges.

The children will have daily, discrete, differentiated phonics lessons where they will work in a group supported by an adult. Phonics will support their literacy development, alongside their reading and spelling skills. Which will support their ability to write with good sentence structure and spell unfamiliar words using their phonic knowledge. We will begin phonics by consolidating previous knowledge from Reception and then work our way onto learning new sounds and high frequency words which will be shared with yourself when the time comes.

We will be looking at both fiction and non-fiction texts based around our 'Me myself and I' topic and delving into the history of ourselves and our families to spark imagination in their writing. Our first focused book is



“On Sudden Hill” where we will be creating our very own short narrative. During literacy lessons we will continue to develop your child’s comprehension skills through asking key questions, predicting and also linking to our own experiences. Your child will also continue to develop these skills and transfer their phonics skills through 1:1 reading with an adult at least once a week where we will also change books. Our library visit is on a Friday afternoon. Please ensure your child has their book in school everyday.

### **Maths**

Maths in year 1 will follow the same structure as English to aid transition and allow for differentiation.

During the first term we will be concentrating on place value. We will also be continuing to consolidate their number recognition/formation, their ability to count confidently up to 20 forwards and backwards from any given number, which we will slowly increase to 100. We will begin to also find 1 more and 1 less as well as looking at addition and subtraction. Throughout the year we will begin to count in 2s, 5s and 10s this will be carried out during our daily counting time before our math lesson begins.

It would be extremely useful if you could try and incorporate as much Maths into your daily life by practicing Maths within your day to day activities. e.g how many sausages are you having for tea? How many will you have left when you’ve eaten one? Sharing sweets between each other equally or counting how many birds you can see in the park!

### **Topic and cross curricular**

Our topic will cover lots of Science, Geography and History, Art and DT and PSED.

We aim to make all our learning as interactive and cross-curricular as possible throughout the whole year. As part of our first topic ‘Me myself and I’ there will be a grandparent afternoon on Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> September at 2:15-3:00 where parents/grandparents are invited along to school. The children will be asking their grandparents, or other older relatives, about life when they were children.

There will also be a topic day every half term that will focus on one area of the curriculum. The first topic day is on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October covering STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics).

### **Physical Development, Music & Spanish**

In PE we are lucky enough to have two specialist PE coaches for the first half term. One of these sessions will be Karate. Our P.E days are Wednesday & Friday PM.

In music we will begin by thinking about sounds that are around us. We will then begin to concentrate on the nativity play for later in the year. Year 1 will be the band for the performance!

The children have already informally begun their Spanish Curriculum in Reception and this will continue weekly in Year 1.



### **Personal, Social, Emotional and Citizenship.**

Our PSE development will discreetly run through all areas of the curriculum through developing confidence, independence, friendships and respect for ourselves and our world around us. In addition to this, it is normal for questions to be asked or issues to arise, therefore I have planned a circle time on a Friday afternoon to discuss any issues or topics that have arisen through the week as a whole class.

To support PSE further I have added a talking tree to our classroom where the children will be asked a question, that they can answer and share with their peers. Questions may include "What is a friend?" "What do you like about yourself?" "Why do we say thank you?"

### **Maths and Spellings**

The children will receive a small number of spellings in their orange home journal, linked to current phonic/spelling patterns and the Year 1 common exception words on a weekly basis. These will remain informal initially, but it is still really important to practise writing them throughout the week. As this develops we will update you.

Children will receive a practical maths activity in their orange journal which usually link to their mental recall for maths.

### **Extra Information:**

- The year 1 email address is [year1@harden.bradford.sch.uk](mailto:year1@harden.bradford.sch.uk)
- There will be a curriculum evening specific to each year group on Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September
- We like to bake as much as we can in year 1. To ensure we can buy all the ingredients we ask for a donation of £2 per child. Please hand this into school in an envelope with your child's name on it.
- The first topic day is Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October
- Our celebration assembly will continue to be held on a Friday. If your child is up for an award you will receive a text inviting yourself along to the celebration.
- Grandparent afternoon on Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> September at 2:15-3:00pm
- You will receive a separate letter about our class trip to Eureka. The date for this is to be confirmed.

We thank you in advance for the support over the coming year and hope you are as excited of us for the adventures that lie ahead. Should you wish to discuss anything further with myself or a member of the Year 1 team please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you!

Miss Roe and Mrs Berry