

Year 1 Curriculum Meeting

In case you were unable to attend the Curriculum Meeting today here are the issues that were discussed:

Library change will hopefully take place on Friday afternoons. **Any offers of help would be gratefully appreciated as we could then extend this to include other days as well.**

PE takes place twice a week, Wednesday and Friday with some extra sessions on a Tuesday morning. We are very fortunate to have a PE specialist teaching the children for one session each week. Plimsolls that fit and warm clothing for the winter, (tracksuit bottoms and top), shorts and a tee shirt all named would be appreciated and if possible left in school. PE kits will come home every half term for washing.

Now that the children are in Year 1 we are encouraging them to be more independent. Where possible please encourage them to say good bye to you at the door and put their belongings away on their own. If you need to speak to your child's teacher then after school is usually best as mornings are very busy. However, we know this is not always possible and if you just wait until the children are in we will endeavour to deal with any concerns you might have.

We are sending out a huge plea for anyone willing to help. It doesn't matter how little time you have. In Year 1 we utilise parents to support our reading programme – 'Better Reading Partnership'. Please speak to your class teacher if you feel that you or anyone in your family could help. We can offer training to anyone who might find it helpful. We would also welcome anyone who might like to cook with the children on a regular basis.

Children are allowed to change their colour band book independently any day they need to. However on a Wednesday their designated morning job is to change the colour banded book they have in their book bags and hand in their Yellow Reading Record Book for the teacher to sign.

During our daily phonics lesson your child may work with a different adult allowing the teaching to be set at the right pace, so if your child mentions they are working with different adults that is why. They will be working with their own teacher for Maths and English.

In Year R your children brought home regular keyword spellings. In Year 1 the spellings that come home are based on the high frequency words at their particular phonics stage. These will come home for you to practise with your children but they will not be 'tested' on them. The aim is that they will start using them in their writing, independently, and they have been given a book mark with these words on which they will keep in their writing book to remind them.

Over the course of the year your child will be bringing home 'Compliments' from the other children in the class to share with you. This is part of our PSHE scheme which endeavours to enhance children's self-esteem. We will also be talking about the values of a being a good 'Crofton Learner'. Sparkle time will take place once a week on a Thursday. The children may bring in one item to share and talk about on that day.

This year sees the introduction of an exciting new experience for the children and staff - a weekly session of outdoor learning as part of our 'Forest Schools' initiative. In year 1 this will be on a Thursday afternoon and the children will be outside for the whole afternoon irrespective of the weather and therefore we would like them to come to school in warm clothing, preferably layers, and have wet weather outdoor clothing and wellington boots if it's wet or muddy. On this day your child can come to school in non-uniform trousers or jogging bottoms but should still wear a school jumper or cardigan. As we have less space in the classrooms, unlike year R, we will not be storing wet weather gear in school.

We will also be continuing to use 'Tapestry' as a way of sharing the children's weekly learning with you. Unlike foundation stage, this will not be specific to your child. Instead of having an individual login there will be one for the year group, further details will follow. If you have changed your email address please can you let the office know?

As some of you may be aware, this year will see the introduction of a different way of assessing children in the light of the new national curriculum and the higher expectations at the end of each year group. We are planning to hold an information evening later in the term when these changes will be shared with you in more detail - date to follow.

To enable us to utilise our time effectively it will be necessary for us to put the outdoor equipment in place before the start of the day. **From a health and safety point of view we would ask that no children are allowed to play with this equipment before or after school – this includes the pirate ship, tyre swing and the wooden house. Thank you for your support with this.**