



Year 1 Curriculum Information

Week Beginning: 5th September 2016

Dear Parents

Your children have continued to settle in well during their first full week of term and we hope they will have lots to tell you about over the weekend.

In assembly this week, Mrs Harries talked to children about the Town Close Way and its important message about the children caring, in all senses of the word. We talked about Bird Families and what sort of things may earn children a Bird Family token.

Literacy

Year 1 children have been doing lots of activities in literacy this week involving reading and handwriting. In particular, we have focused on capital letter formation, as these letters are used less frequently. Children have been reading to adults independently and they have also enjoyed a variety of different activities which have concentrated on improving pencil grips and the fluidity of movement in their hand motions. Children have also enjoyed some word play looking at pictures and matching the rhyming names of the varied images.

Numeracy

In numeracy, children have been ordering numbers to 20, demonstrating the skill to match the written numeral with the spoken number. Children have also been working in groups to demonstrate careful counting, using counters to represent how many is shown by a given numeral. Children have further extended their counting skills by accurately counting a variety of objects and playing some fun games both in partners and as a whole class using the interactive whiteboard.

Other lessons and activities:

In computing, children have taken their first steps in computing independence by trying to 'log-on' without adult help. The children have then explored some educational games independently. They have done this in a safe way after learning lessons from the story of 'Smartie the Penguin' which teaches the children how to be safe when using computers, especially when on the internet.

In art, children have created their own pastel self-portraits, learning how to draw a face shape and using a cross section to structure their work so that the facial features are in the correct place. Children were encouraged to think about colour choices so that their work gave a realistic representation of their appearance.

In games, the children have begun a carousel of activities for the coming three weeks. The children will learn to den build, play team building games and improve their balancing skills. Meanwhile in PE we have begun our focus on gymnastic work; this week we have been learning to move and hold our body in a variety of ways and positions.

We began our topic this year with a visit from aliens 'Pal and Pax' who were on an investigatory mission to learn as much as they can about human kind. Year 1 children have tried to help them in their efforts by drawing round a member of their group before labelling as many human body parts that they could think of.

There have been a few biting incidents during playtimes in Year 1 this week. This has led to class discussion about biting and how it is not appropriate in any situation. Children were reminded of The Town Close Way and it has been agreed that any future incidents will lead to a missed playtime.

Parents who are new to Town Close will find an A4 sign with their child's name on it in their child's book bag. This is for use at 'Stop and Collect' to help us quickly identify cars. If you could please hold or prop it up for staff to see, we would be grateful. Any returning parents who need a new sign, please contact Mrs Stackwood in the office on preprepsec@townclose.com.

Finally, please ensure that you wear your Town Close parent lanyard whenever you come onto the School site. This is something we check regularly. Many thanks.

Over the weekend your child might like to:

- Remind your children about the importance of thorough handwashing and what this looks like (we have had a sickness bug in Year 1 and would like to help to minimise the spread of germs).
- Draw a portrait of a family member or friend.
- Read the book sent home to an adult.
- Have a go at accurately counting items in your home (e.g. How many marbles are in this jar? or how many toys are in this box?).
- Discuss the importance of accurate counting.

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 14th September: Class and individual 'Bentley' photographs

Please note that the children will be photographed in their blazers.

Tuesday 27th September: Year 1 trip to Africa Alive.

Friday 21st October – 8.30am-10.00am: Grandparents' coffee morning in the Pre Prep hall and visit to the classrooms.

Thursday 6th October – 5.00pm onwards: 'settling in' parents' evening. Parents will be able to book an appointment slot from Monday 19th September – full booking instructions will follow in next week's curriculum information letter.

Friday 21st October: Break up for half term

Monday 7th November: Start of second half of term

Thursday 8th December – 8.30am-10.00am: Year 1 coffee morning in the Pre Prep hall followed by the Year 1 Christmas production in the Read Hall

We hope you have a lovely weekend with your children.

With very best wishes from Mrs Wilson, Mr Fisher, Mr Fereday and Mrs Harries

Melanie Harries