

# HINCHLEY WOOD PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## Hinchley Wood Primary School

### Curriculum Newsletter Year 1 - Autumn First Half Term

Dear Parent/Carer,

We have had a great start to the new academic year and wanted to take the opportunity to tell you about some of the topics Year 1 will be studying in the first half of the autumn term. We hope this information will be useful to you.

#### **English:**

This half term we will be reading the stories 'The Man on The Moon' and 'Beegu'. We ask that you do not read ahead so that the children can engage with the story together and are able to hone their prediction and inference skills. During our writing sessions we will be focusing on using finger spaces, full stops and the conjunction 'and'.

We ask for your support in ensuring your children read aloud to a parent/carer **every night**, as this will greatly assist their reading and comprehension skills. If your child is struggling with a word, encourage them to use their sounds to segment (sound it out) and then blend it. Please ask your children questions about what they have read in order to test their understanding, for example asking 'How do you think the character might be feeling?' or 'What might happen next?' Being able to summarise a piece of text is also an important skill; please ask your child to do this when you read with them. Your child will be able to change their books on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. They have all been given a reading record. Please write the date, the name of the book and make a comment in your child's reading record so that we know the book has been read.

#### **Maths:**

This half term, Year 1 will be looking at number – counting forwards and backwards to 20, reading and writing numbers and identifying one more and one less. Your child will see these in a variety of ways to aid understanding through the mastery approach. Following this, we will be moving onto addition and subtraction of numbers up to 30. As always, we ask for your support at home to encourage your child to practise their number bonds to 10 (e.g. 6+4; 7+3 etc). If your child has not yet learnt these, please help them learn them. In our experience, it is very difficult for a child to make good progress in Maths without this basic knowledge.

#### **Science:**

We begin with the topic of Humans in which the children will learn about the parts of the human body, differences in human bodies (e.g. hair colour, eye colour) and the five senses.

#### **History:**

We begin the term with a unit of work on Neil Armstrong. We will be focusing on space and understanding that he is a significant person within living memory because he was the first man on the moon.

**Computing:**

This half term we will be looking at e-safety. We will be discussing how we can keep ourselves safe when using the internet.

**RE:**

During RE, our focus will be 'why should we look after our world?' We will be reflecting on what makes planet Earth special and why we should protect it. This will be linked to the creation stories in Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

**PSHE:**

In PSHE we start our Jigsaw topic of 'Being me in my world'. We will think about our current school and how we can help others to feel welcome, how we can make our school community a better place, respecting everyone's right to learn, caring about other people's feelings and how to work well with others. This will support the children in their transition from Early Years to Year 1.

**Design Technology:**

Our Art and Design focus will be linked to our History topic on Space. We will evaluate rockets and then plan and make our own 3D rocket.

**PE:**

For PE we will be playing 'invasion games'. This will focus on running, throwing and catching skills. During indoor PE, we will be doing gymnastics with a focus on balance, agility and coordination skills. Our indoor PE will be linked to our History topic on Space – where we will be moving like astronauts! PE kits should come into school on a Monday and will go home with children on a Friday (if necessary).

**Music:**

For music, we will be learning the song 'Hey You!' We will be using this to introduce musical vocabulary including rhythm, pulse and beat.

**Phonics:**

As some of you will be aware, in Summer Term, the children will take part in the phonics screening check. This is a test that is set for all Year 1 children to check that they are able to use their phonetic skills to decode words. Each child will complete their check with their teacher in the week commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June. Some of the words will be real, and others are made-up. This ensures that the child can use their sounds to decode words and hasn't just sight read a familiar word. You can see how the test is administered here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPJ\\_ZEBh1Bk&t=1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPJ_ZEBh1Bk&t=1s). We will also be holding a parent workshop about the phonics screening check later in the year.

We will be grouping the children across the year group, based on the gaps in their phonetic knowledge. Based on our successful pilot last year, we believe that this means that we can go at a pace that is appropriate for your child and therefore the children will be able to make rapid progress with learning the sounds that they need to know. The groups have been considered carefully and are a working document. We will be regularly assessing the children and changing the groups as a result.

You can support your children by practising sounds at home. The following are useful resources to use at home to support your child with learning phonics;

- Alphablocks videos (BBC iplayer or YouTube)
- Geraldine the Giraffe on YouTube
- Jolly phonics songs on YouTube
- Phonics Play (free games)
- Teach your monster to read (free game)

If you have any questions, please feel free to make an appointment to see us. We look forward to meeting you at the Parents' Meeting on the 26th.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Bantock, Miss Henderson and Miss Morris  
Year 1 class teachers