
SALTWOOD CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

CLASS 1 NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2019

Letter distributed on Wednesday 4 September

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to class 1! We are really looking forward to the next year with each and every child. Over the next few weeks we will be creating a happy transition from Reception to Key Stage 1 and setting the foundations for becoming excellent learners. This newsletter is to explain some of the new things we will be doing this term so that you can share in your children's learning and support their progress.

Literacy

Over terms 1 and 2 we will be looking at stories in familiar settings; labels, lists, signs and stories with repeating patterns; poems with patterns and rhymes; information text. Throughout these topics we will teach cursive handwriting and phonics on a daily basis. We continue to use Letters and Sounds for our phonic work and these will be incorporated into our spellings work and Family Learning tasks.

This year is an exciting opportunity for children to develop not only their technical reading skills but also their enjoyment of books and reading. The time children spend at home enjoying books is invaluable, not just in daily reading practice, but in listening to stories and talking about them. In class we encourage independent reading as well as hearing each child read twice a week, once in a small group and once 1:1 with the teacher or teaching assistant. We also encourage the children to change their own books when they are ready, 2 or 3 times per week. We will look at your encouraging comments together before they change their book. Thank you. Reading books should, preferably, be in a flat book bag for easy storage in our boxes. Large back packs are pretty tricky for us to manage!

Mathematics

In mathematics we will be developing children's understanding of number, focusing on counting and calculating skills in addition and subtraction. This is through a range of practical activities and children will also have the opportunity to explore weight, length, time, shape and handling data. The development of mental skills in mathematics is vital and we will be developing these on a daily basis.

Curriculum

Our other areas of the curriculum are outlined in the table overleaf and are as creative and practical as possible. We encourage children to have enquiring minds and to develop their thinking skills by asking questions and sharing their own knowledge with Talk Partners or in groups. We aim to inspire children to learn and develop in all ways.

Subject	Term 1	Term 2
Science	Seasonal change	Everyday Materials
IT	Logging on/E-Safety & Programmable Toys	Simple Coding – Scratch Junior
RE	Christianity: God – what do Christians believe God is like?	Incarnation Why does Christmas matter to Christians?
Topic	Geography: Our School, the Immediate Area and Great Britain	History: Household objects and Changes in Living Memory
Art/DT	Art: Drawing and Painting	DT: Healthy Foods and Cooking
PE	Dance, Gymnastics, Football	Dance, Gymnastics, Football
Music	Exploring Sounds Music for Performance Vivaldi 'Autumn'	Exploring Duration Christmas Nativity songs
PSHE	New Beginnings	Getting on and Falling Out

Family Learning Tasks are linked closely to our current learning across the curriculum and your support makes a big difference in consolidating and developing school based learning. We will start these shortly and tasks will be fortnightly (weekly after Christmas). We hope you will enjoy working on these with your children.

Please also let us know if you feel you have any skills you can offer the class either as a one-off visit, or on a regular basis. We welcome the shared learning that this allows. Please do not hesitate to ask us or Mrs Marwood and Mrs Hawkes. We are always open to discuss areas of concern or answer queries. A quick word is fine when you drop off or pick up your children, or please make an appointment after the children have been dismissed for the day.

Thank you for all the support you have given to the school already. I look forward to developing the relationships already begun and to giving children an excitement about their own learning. I do hope you will be able to attend the Orientation Session on Tuesday 10 September at 4.00pm where you will have the opportunity to meet me and find out a little more about Class 1. After Christmas, there will be an open session where you will be able to join your child in class for a morning.

As part of our 'Seasonal Changes' topic in Science, we are planning to plant bulbs – please could you contribute a pack of bulbs to plant around school. Please could you send them in before the October break. Further information will be on my class window regarding volunteers for a planting out session. Also, if anyone could help with cooking sessions, please let me know. Many thanks.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Rock
Class Teacher