

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Class 1 and for all our new parents welcome to Curzon!

We hope that you have all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the exciting year ahead. The children have had a fantastic first few days in school and are all settling in really well. They are having lots of fun exploring the classroom, engaging in the activities and making new friends. The new reception children are doing brilliantly coming into school. We know that for some children (and parents) this is a daunting and emotional time but please be assured that any children who are initially finding this part of the day difficult settle quickly once inside the classroom.

This letter will give you a brief overview of how Class 1 runs and what your children will be doing this term. If you have any questions or anything you wish to discuss with me, please feel free to approach me on the playground at the end of the day or arrange a time to pop in and see me.

### **Phonics**

The Year 1 children from both Class 1 & 2 will work together during their daily phonics lesson to help improve both their reading, spelling and writing. Their spellings for the week will correspond with the sounds that your child has been learning in phonic sessions.

The Year R children will also receive a daily phonics session where they will start to learn initial letter sounds. They will not receive spelling homework until later in the year when they have learnt a larger bank of sounds.

### **Literacy**

We will be reading lots of different stories and looking at repetitive rhymes and patterns this term.

The children will be:

- working on writing simple sentences, encouraging the Year 1s to do this independently.
- practising their letter formation, we aim for children to write in a cursive style.
- listening to the sounds in the words they want to write.
- finding words they know in a word bank or on the wall.
- putting a space between each word.
- experimenting with using full stops and capital letters for their sentences.
- writing captions and labels.

### **Numeracy**

The children will be covering a lot of different areas of Maths this term through adult led activities and their continuous provision. These include:

- Counting, properties of numbers and number sequences.
- Place value and ordering.
- Understanding – and + using words like plus, add, total, take away, subtract, left, equals and less and more.
- Begin to relate addition to combining two groups of objects counting all the objects.
- Say the number that is 1 or 10 more or less than a number to 20.  
(Year 1 place value, numbers to 50 working up to 100)
- Identify and use doubles.
- Money and real life problems, including the Year 1s giving change from 10p and 20p.
- Comparing mass.
- Use more or less, longer or shorter, heavier or lighter to make direct comparisons of two quantities (length, mass, time), use words such as bigger and smaller to describe size.

### **Afternoon curriculum**

RE	What makes our world so special?
ICT	Typing and basic computer skills
Science	Living things/Materials
Humanities (1 <sup>st</sup> ½ term)	UK
Humanities (2 <sup>nd</sup> ½ term)	The Great Fire of London
Art (1 <sup>st</sup> ½ term)	
DT (2 <sup>nd</sup> ½ term)	
PE	Gymnastics and Multi skills
PSHCE	

On Tuesday, Thursday and Friday afternoons I leave the children in the very capable hands of Mrs Thomson. This enables me to fulfil my SENCo role and teach Forest School to the rest of the school.

### **P.E.**

PE lessons will take place on **Thursday** afternoons. Please ensure that your child has their correct P.E. kit in school for these days and that everything is labelled. The children leave their PE kits at school and bring them home at half term and end of term.

### **Reading books**

Year 1 children should have already brought some reading books home, along with their reading record by now. Over the next few weeks the Year R children will be bringing books home too. Some of the initial books do not contain words. They are for you and your child to share together until they are ready to start reading. It is important that you hear them read at home (everyday if possible!) as regular support has a positive impact on children's progress. Please make a comment in your child's reading record whenever you share a book or read with them at home.

### **Year 1 Homework**

All Year 1 children will be given Maths and Spelling homework every Monday and this is to be returned by the following Monday. This year they will have spellings, a short numeracy activity on Mathletics and Bug Books, which focus on your child's comprehension skills. Children will have two weeks to complete Bug Books so these will be given on a **Monday** and expected to be returned on the **Monday 2 weeks later**. Spellings will go home in a spelling book where children **must** 'look, cover, write, check' and practise three times during the week, as well as write their spellings into sentences each week. Children should spend around 10-15 minutes writing their sentences and should practise their spellings on separate occasions. Spelling books must be returned to school every Monday for homework to be marked and for the children to complete their weekly spelling test.

**Year R homework** will start later in the term once the children have become more confident in school routine. However, they will be coming home with Mathletics passwords so please do encourage them to log on and practice their maths skills.

Mathletics link: <http://uk.mathletics.com/signin/>

### **Our Class Mascot**

Our class mascot (who the children are yet to name!) is an incentive to encourage children's passion for writing and desire to do homework. The toy will come home with a different child every week to spend the weekend with your family. Your child is then expected to write and draw/photograph what they have done with the toy during the weekend in their own special diary. It will go home on a Friday and needs to come back to school with the diary on Monday.

### **Water Bottles**

Please ensure that your child brings a named and filled water bottle into school with them each day so that they can drink regularly throughout the day. This will be sent home at the end of each day so that it can be washed and returned to school again the following morning. We request that these bottles contain water only and not other drinks. Also that they have 'flip' lids rather than screw tops.

### **Labelling**

Please ensure that all belongings (uniform, coats, lunch boxes, book bags, snack boxes, water bottles etc) are clearly labelled with your child's name. This helps your child to recognise their name and locate their own belongings, and also enables misplaced items to be easily identified and returned.

### **Show and Tell**

In order to develop the children's communication and language skills we are planning to have a Show and Tell session on Tuesday afternoons when children can bring in an item from home to talk about to the class. This will be operated on a rota basis commencing on Tuesday 25th September when Group 1 will be invited to 'Show and tell'. We will provide a notice informing you of the group that your child will be in prior to this date.

### **Stationery**

In Class 1, due to the nature of their work and the speed in which they use resources, children share stationery. This means that as a class, rather than pencil cases, we really appreciate donations from parents, for example extra glue sticks, whiteboard pens or rubbers so if you happen to see any going cheap in the supermarkets or have any spare at home, please send them in with your child at any point throughout the year. We will be asking children for any stationery they have brought in during the few first weeks and collating this together into a shared resource for the class.

### **Helpers needed please**

If there are any parents who have any spare time to come in and hear children read or support in lessons I would greatly appreciate any offers. Please just let me know if you are available, anything from 15 minutes to an hour to a whole afternoon will be of great help!

I look forward to seeing you at our Meet the Teacher evening on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm.

Mrs Steere

Class 1 Teacher