

Dear Parents,

Welcome back. What a successful first half-term we have had in Year 1 so far. I have been amazed at how well the children have all settled into the new routines of Year 1 and it was lovely to end the half-term with our trip to Nell Bank. We have a jam-packed half-term coming up of fun activities, themed days and Christmas excitement!

Routines: Most of the routines from last half-term remain in place. PE days are Mondays and Thursdays. Children can change their reading book once a week on their specific day. Children are getting really good at getting into the routine of bringing their reading bags in on the correct day. Thank you for your co-operation with this. **Children will now be going home with 2 reading books. This will either be 2 phonics books or 1 phonics book and 1 skills book.** On Fridays all children need to bring their reading bags in and children will receive a new library book, homework and spellings. Homework will go out on a Friday and be collected in on a Wednesday.

Creative Curriculum: The topic for this half term is **"Dinosaurs"**. In this exciting topic, we will combine historical and scientific skills to explore the question **"Did Captain Sir Tom Moore see any dinosaurs?"**. We will be learning everything there is to know about these amazing creatures from the past. We will be finding out when dinosaurs existed and what happened to them. We will learn facts about specific dinosaurs and comment on the similarities and differences between them. We will also find out who **Mary Anning** was and investigate fossils.



English: We will be studying the book 'Gigantosaurus' We will be using this book as well as others to make comparisons between fiction and non-fiction books. This text will allow us to learn facts about dinosaurs which will help us to write our own non-fiction fact books. We will be learning about headings and how to use question marks.

Maths: In Maths, the children will continue to build on their knowledge of place value. This half term we will be focusing on numbers up to 20. The children will be working on ordering numbers, completing number sequences and identifying numbers on a number line. Within Year 1 the children will begin to develop an understanding that two digit numbers are made up of 'tens' and 'ones'. We will also continue our work on addition and subtraction, focusing on interpreting calculations that look different to 'normal'. The children have been developing their fluency skills with number sentences such as $2 + 9 = 11$. This term we will be exposing the children to calculations that appear in a different format e.g. $16 = 11 + ?$. This will develop the child's ability to problem solve and identify missing numbers. This half term we will also be learning about 2D and 3D shapes.

Science: In Science, we are continuing to look at **Animals including Humans**. We will be identifying and classifying a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. We will also be identifying and naming a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.

R.E.: We will be focusing on the question **'Why does Christmas matter to Christians?'**. Children will learn about the Christmas story and why Jesus is important for Christians. The children will identify aspects of their own experience and feelings at Christmas and ask questions about Christmas.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have - either in person in the playground or by contacting the office.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Patterson