

Literacy and English

We will be adopting an active approach to our literacy this year and will be making use of some brand new whiteboards and letters to support our learning of our sounds and new vocabulary. We will be learning 2 sounds and 3 new words a week.

Before we get started with our letters and sounds, we are undertaking a 3-4 week intensive block on phonological awareness. The reason for this is that phonological awareness is one of the biggest predictors of later success in reading ability and encompasses areas such as rhyme, syllables and listening. The children have been working so hard with this in class!

The phonics scheme we will be using as our focus to learn our sounds is Jolly Phonics. The songs and actions which accompany each sound and letter are available to access for free on Youtube.

Primary 1 Welcome!

I would first of all like to say to you how impressed I am with how well Primary 1 have settled into their classroom within St. Thomas'. The children are growing in confidence each day and are already making wonderful progress. I am very excited to be working with them all this year!

Please keep up to date with Twitter for some snapshots of our achievements and hard work!



Numeracy

Primary 1 are working with concrete materials to help them with their understanding of number and are using a variety of different resources in class to help explore sequencing, counting and forming their numbers to 10. We have loved participating in number rhymes and using the digital resources in class to challenge ourselves with our learning!

Primary 1 have been making themselves familiar with the different resources we have both indoors, and outside to help with our numerical learning. Our mathematical focus to start off with for this term will be pattern and shape.

Homework

There are 3 parts to daily homework: **Phonics**, **Reading** and **Numeracy** and **Maths**. I would like for the focus this term to be on reading and phonics, with the other tasks being optional consolidation activities. Homework completed each night should take no more than 20 minutes in total! **Please make sure reading books are kept in school bags to be used in class.**

Reading: The children will be issued with a homework pack containing their reading book, common words for the week in a word tin to practise and a Stage Words grid for their reading book stage. Included in this pack will be a grid of examples questions to ask whilst reading the book to help support comprehension. Reading should be done with an adult as often as possible at home.

Phonics: I will assign 2 games onto Education City for the weeks 2 new sounds that are being learned to help consolidate learning. **This is an optional task.** Children will be given their user name and password in the homework pack.

Numeracy: I will assign the children activities to be accessed online on Sumdog, again this is a consolidation activity. **All passwords will be issued in the Homework Packs.**

Learning across the Curriculum

Primary 1's Topic for this term is 'All About Me'. We will be learning all about what makes us unique and special and why it is important to show kindness to others. We have already produced some wonderful self-portraits and are focusing on our emotions in our weekly writing activities.

As we learn about keeping ourselves safe, we will also be learning about 'People Who Help Us'.

Health & Wellbeing

Our PE allocation is a double slot on **Wednesday** afternoon. The children do not require a separate PE kit for these days however, if you wish, your child can come to school in a polo shirt, trainers, shorts or jogging bottoms.

Throughout this term, Primary 1 will be learning about their feelings and emotions as part of our 'All About Me' topic. We will also be learning about healthy bodies, hygiene and keeping ourselves safe.

Hints and Tips

Please ensure your child's name is on all clothing and belongings.

Some useful websites:

- [Sumdog](#)
- [Education City](#)
- [Doorway Online](#)
- [BBC Bitesize](#)
- [Topmarks](#)

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or worries.

Miss Matheson ☺