



Harwell Community Primary School

The Styles,
Harwell,
OX11 0HX

Headteacher: Bryn Gibson

Telephone: (01235) 835337

Email: office.2563@harwell.oxon.sch.uk

Dear Parents and Carers

Autumn Term (1) Parent Curriculum Letter

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer and are looking forward to the coming year. We are so excited to welcome the children back to school to start their Year 1 journey and we will be working hard to work within government guidelines to ensure each child is safe and happy.

This letter will give you an outline of the curriculum, the first half of the Autumn term and the expectations that we have at school.

The topic this half term is: Ahoy me hearties!

In **Literacy**, the children will follow the Talk for Writing scheme using Syeeda the Pirate Princess as our stimulus for two pieces of writing. The children will continue to use Read Write Inc for **Phonics**. To begin the term we will assess the childrens' phonics and match them with the appropriate phonics coloured reading books.

Children will be given a reading record at the start of the term that is taken home in their book bags **every day**. When your child is given their appropriate coloured phonics books, that will also be in their book bags. Your child is more than welcome to take books from our class Reading Den as long as an adult is made aware and it is brought back. I ask that you read with your child and record in their reading record as frequently as you can because reading at home is paramount to embed their fluency and confidence.

In **Maths** this term will focus on number and place value, ensuring the children are fully confident in their basic understanding before the next steps. It would be great if you could count forwards and backwards with your children at home, as this will consolidate the learning taking place in the classroom.

PE will take place on Tuesday afternoon. We will require your child to **come into school in their kit** on a Tuesday until told otherwise. In these first terms, they must have appropriate outdoor kits as we may be on the AGP for lessons.

Swimming will take place on a Friday afternoon. Your child will need to bring in a labelled kit, hat and pair of goggles. A reminder that children are also not allowed to wear jewellery during PE or swimming lessons, so all earrings and other items must be removed.

Homework in Year 1 will be different from Foundation as the aim is to get them settled into the Year 1 school routine first and focus on their reading. They can practise their set sounds for 5 minutes a day, I can provide a Sound Mat with videos to support their understanding. You can also practise counting and making numbers with objects at home, like pasta. Ask your child to count out __, then ask them one more or one less for example.

I would greatly appreciate any recycling that you may have at home as our Workshop Area always needs resources for junk modelling, which I know the children love! However, depending on the activity you may need to help by providing specific materials such as egg boxes/cereal boxes,/toilet rolls for certain tasks, but I will let you know when that is the case!

The **Outcome** for this term will be on Wednesday 20th of October. I would like to invite you to come in for our dressing like a pirate day. You will have the opportunity to look at your child's book and talk to them about Year 1 so far. This will include characters they have added to our tale, masks, ships, experiments and more. We will be keeping a close eye on government guidelines to ensure that we do this in the safest way for you and your children and of course let you know any updates as we go.

Throughout the year you will receive emails/letters regarding specific activities. I hope this letter covers any queries about this starting term, if not please feel free to talk to me after school with any questions you may have or email the office.

Miss Thomson and the Year 1 Team