

Class 1 Curriculum Newsletter

January 2020

Welcome back to school! Happy New Year and we hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas break. What an exciting term we have ahead of us! I hope you find the following information useful and will explain the routine in Class 1, it is sure to be a good term with lots of exciting things to learn about! Now the term is underway, I hope the children have filled you in with what we are learning about...

I am very excited to be teaching in Class 1 from now on. I will be in Class Monday, Tuesdays and Wednesdays and we welcome Mrs Emptage to Monkleigh on Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Emptage has taught locally for many years and is a very experienced KS1 teacher. She will be joining us now after covering Mr Sussex's paternity leave in Class 3.

We also welcome Miss Turner into Class 1 who will be working with us full time.

The class will be organised slightly differently now that Mrs Emptage is joining us. The beginning of the week will focus mainly on Maths with Mrs O'Donoghue teaching the majority of the maths and Mrs Emptage teaching the majority of the literacy at the end of the week. Phonics will still be taught every day by both teachers and at the end of the week, some quick mental maths; counting, odds and evens etc will be still be taught.

All children in Class 1 will now have PE for 30 minutes every day. This will allow each year group to have 30 minutes of maths in a small group to help support their learning whilst the others are at PE and then swap. They will not get changed into their kits every day, but will change into their trainers so please ensure these are in school and on pegs at all times.

Outdoor Learning will take place on a Wednesday afternoon for this half term. They will then have a break until after Easter.

Our curriculum is changing at Monkleigh this term; before, we used to have a whole school topic and all our lessons and learning focussed around this topic. As

the expectation has now changed, each subject will be taught individually each week.

Literacy: Phonics will now form part of our literacy lesson. Phonics will still be taught separately but will now be before the Literacy lesson so that the learning taking place during phonics can be continued and used throughout their Literacy.

Maths: It is so important for the children to really grasp the number system and place value by the end of Year 1 and Year 2 so a lot of our maths work will focus around this. We will continue to be working on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division and ensuring we can use these confidently and be aware of a range of resources, tools and strategies to help us problem solve.

Science: This term our Science focus will be 'Everyday Materials'.

History: We will begin this term by looking at the lives of significant people who have helped shaped our world. We will be looking at democracy, The Suffragettes and voting and specifically Emmeline Pankhurst and Emily Davison.

Geography: Geography will be taught after half term and will focus on Weather.

Art: Art will be focussed on textiles and collage. We will be looking at the artist Matisse and how he created abstract art by using paper cut into various shapes. We will be using tearing, cutting, folding and rubbings to create an under-water picture. We are now also using sketch books at Monkleigh to develop and record our skills.

D&T: after half term, we will be looking at food and cookery.

Music: We are looking at rhythm and beats this term and focussing on the song 'Banana Rap'.

Computing: Computing will focus on algorithms and digital imagery.

PSHE: We try to have PSHE running throughout our whole day and address issues as and when they arrive, but our focus this term will be on valuing difference.

HOMEWORK: Spellings will continue to be given out and tested on a Monday for the moment. This may change to a Wednesday in time to fit with planning. Copies of spellings can be found in the cloakroom and I will continue to upload them to Dojo. Please continue to read with your child as much as possible at home. We will continue to listen to your child read and change their books accordingly. For some children, it is beneficial that they read their book more than once before it is changed. If you feel your child needs their book changed, please see one of us first. Please encourage your child to read a range of texts - if they are reading other books at home, other than their reading book, please write this in their reading record as reading a wide range of texts is so valuable and 'reading at home' points will be given out for each time they read at home which is written in their reading record.

As the children now progress through the book bands and the texts become longer and more complex, the children won't be moved on through the stages as quickly. It may be that they can read them 'word perfectly' but at this young age, it is important that they now read for meaning. This means that they can recall what has happened, discuss the text they have read and answer questions you may ask them. Also predict what they think may happen by looking at the pictures first.

I will also be giving out 'Home Learning' for the children to complete in time. This will probably be focussed on maths or writing. It won't be a big task at all and will be something to complete or discuss which leads on from our weekly learning in school. It's also a great way for you to discuss with your child what they have been learning about at school. Home Learning points will be given out at school for those who complete it.

If there are any things that you would ever like to discuss, please feel free to pop in and see me before or after school or, of course, message via dojo. I am very excited for the term ahead!

Mrs Bethany O'Donoghue.