**September 2017 Newsletter**

Dear children and parents/carers,

I do hope that you have all had a lovely summer break and are now ready for a busy and exciting year in Base 1!

We have had a great first week together and I am really looking forward to all of the learning that I have planned for Base 1 this year. We are lucky to have Mrs Griffin in class to support this year, she will be working with all of the children to help support their learning and progress.

Our school day starts at 8:55am and I will be at the door ready to meet you from 8:45am, please do arrive promptly. There will be a morning activity ready and this time is really important for us to talk through the day’s learning and prepare as a class for the day ahead. Please do also use this ‘meet and greet’ time in the morning to pass me any messages, letters or monies rather than sending them directly to the office.

**Teaching and Learning**

We have a whole school theme each term for this new school year and we begin with **'Time Travellers'** which, in Base 1, we are going to link with a ‘**People Who Help Us’** topic.

We have a selection of wonderful texts to lead our learning this term, including *Stuck* by Oliver Jeffers, *That Pesky Rat* by Lauren Child, *Burglar Bill* by Janet and Allan Ahlberg and *The Jolly Postman* by Janet and Allen Allberg. Each of these texts will provide us with different opportunities to develop our writing and comprehension skills, but I am also hoping that you will all find something within these stories that will inspire your learning across the whole curriculum.

Many of the curriculum subjects have been woven together to make our learning more meaningful this term. The holistic Autumn term overview gives a flavour of the work we will be covering.

We are lucky to have a beautiful outside learning environment and so will try to learn outside of the classroom as much as possible. Please do bring a coat to school, even if the morning is bright and sunny as you leave home. We will go outside and explore whatever the weather and we also have a garden area in Base 1 that will need planting! If you have a set of wellies that you can bring to school and leave here during the week that would be brilliant.

Over the page is your **weekly timetable** for this term:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** | **Thursday** | **Friday** |
| **Session 1** | Literacy  reading/ writing / SPAG/ phonics | Literacy  reading/ writing / SPAG/ phonics | Literacy  reading/ writing / SPAG/ phonics | Literacy  reading/ writing / SPAG/ phonics | Literacy  reading/ writing / SPAG/ phonics  French -  Mrs Sharpe |
| **Morning break** | | | | | |
| **Session 2** | Numeracy | Numeracy | Numeracy | Numeracy | Numeracy |
| **Lunch - 1 hr** | | | | | |
| **15 min assemblies** | Assembly | Assembly | RE – Mrs Griffin | Learning Journey | Learning Journey |
| **Session 3** | Learning Journey | Learning Journey |
| **Session 4** | PE | Gymnastics – Mrs Griffin | Stars of the week Assembly |

Note: *Learning Journey time will be used to cover the other subjects - Science, geography, history, computing, art, D&T and music.*

**PE:** Please be prepared for PE with a full kit - red tee-shirt, black shorts and trainers. A sweatshirt/joggers in grey/black/ navy for the colder sessions is recommended.

Every child goes to a well-being club once a week at lunch time with an adult who they do not see every day in their classroom. It is a lovely opportunity for the children to spend time with children from other classes and have another adult to touch base with.

Do check the school website as often as possible to keep you up to date with events at school. I will write a weekly news feed so you can see all the exciting things we have been up to in Base 1.

**Regular homework**

* **Daily reading** – please do make time to read together as much as possible. It is really important for the children read little and often to build up their stamina. Sharing books and reading to your children is also really important as it is an opportunity to talk about the words and what is happening as well as letting the children hear you read fluently.

I will be making each child a reading target book mark which will travel between school and home in their reading record or reading book. On here I will write their current reading target so the children are really clear on what they have to work on and we are both working on the same thing at school and at home.

* **Key rings –** each child will have a key ring with their name on and it will be used to attach some words that they need to learn. These are words that they must learn to ‘sight read’, which means they can read them straight away without sounding out and in any order. Some Y1 children will also be learning to spell their words. If you can, please practise these words every day.
* **Spellings** – spelling tests will be on a Thursday during phonics lessons. The new spellings for the week will then be sent home on a Friday.

The Y1 children will receive their first words to learn on Friday 15th September and the reception children will receive their first words to learn on Friday 6th October.

* **Maths** – year 1 children will receive a short maths task to consolidate learning in class each week. This will be given out on a Monday and due in each Friday.
* **Additional homework** – I may set some additional homework to support our learning in class. This might be a creative, making or finding out task. Often you will have a choice of things to do and might have to pick one or two from the list.

Once we have completed the baseline assessments for the start of this term, regular homework will begin to be sent home. I would be grateful if you could encourage and support your children with these tasks at home, they will all designed to either consolidate learning we have done in class or in preparation for something we will be doing.

**Snack**

Snack will be available for Mrs Warner at break times each day, but if your child wants to bring a snack from home please ensure that it is a healthy snack as we are promoting healthy living. In support of the government’s ‘Obesity Strategy’ (August 2016) to promote a healthy diet, chocolate, sweets and crisps will no longer be allowed for snack.

**Parent partnership**

As you all know, good parent partnership is key to your child's success at Wrenbury. I think that communication between parents and teachers is so important for a child’s progress and well-being. Please do let me know of anything that might have happened that you think might have upset or might impact your child at school. It always helps to be informed and I am happy to help in any way that I can. Of course, I also like to hear about all of the lovely things the children have been up to, and I am sure they will keep me up to date when we have anything to celebrate!

I will always be available at the door for a quick chat in the mornings or at home time. Please do not hesitate to catch me then, or we can arrange a mutually convenient time to talk.

**Some dates for your diary!**

* Pastoral meeting for **Y1 parents –** Monday 11th September at 5pm
* Phonics lesson for **all parents –** Monday 25th September at 3pm. The Y1 children will be involved in helping me to show you what we do in a phonics lesson!
* Pastoral meeting for **reception parents –** Monday 25th September at 3:45pm (straight after the phonics ‘lesson’).

If possible, please do attend these meetings as they are a chance for us to talk through what life is like in Base 2 and answer any questions you might have. I hope to see you there.

Kind regards,

Miss Pitchford