

Year 1 Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 1 - we have decided to send out our Term 1 newsletter now so that you can help your child to prepare for life in Year 1 over the summer holidays.

The theme for Term 1 is '**Paws, Claws and Whiskers**'. We are looking forward to learning all about the animals that have these features as well as the habitats that they live in.

In Literacy we will be delving into the world of traditional tales. We will be making links to our 'Paws, Claws and Whiskers' topic by re-telling a well-known animal themed story - 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'.

This term in Maths we will be focusing on number; we will be continuing to learn to order numbers up to 20 and to recognise 1 more and 1 less of a given number.

In Science we will be continuing to learn about animals, including humans. We will be exploring the different senses of the human body and categorising animals by diet.

In Computing we will be exploring algorithms and using them to control Beebots and computer programs. We will also be learning about how to fix 'bugs' within a set of instructions.

RE this term will focus on Christian values and way of life.

Our Art this term will be animal related; we are looking forward to creating animals from clay and using taught techniques to include finer detail such as feathers or fur.

In Design and Technology we will be designing, making and evaluating a moveable split pin animal.

In Geography we will be looking at the story 'Dear Zoo' and will be using this to help us to create aerial view maps of our own zoo.

Reading Books

Please note that there is no set day to change reading books. Children are welcome to change their 'free choice' book on a daily basis should they wish to. Please keep in mind that these books may seem harder or easier than their banded book and we encourage shared reading/comprehension activities alongside these. Children can change their banded books once they have read them to an adult at home and we have seen a note in the contact book or once they have read them to an adult in school.

Contact Books

Contact books will not be removed from book bags unless they are needed throughout the day by an adult within the class. If you write to us in them, please ensure that your child arrives holding it so that it can be placed into the class tray for an adult to read and respond to.

Home Learning

Home learning and Busy Books will be shared on Fridays in the form of a table top gallery. Children's work will be stamped or stickered alongside verbal feedback. Children can continue to bring in certificates, medals

and trophies related to their extra-curricular activities to share during whole school celebration assemblies, also taking place on Fridays. **We ask that children do not to bring in toys from home.** Each week we will be sending home 5 spellings that we want the children to learn for a spelling challenge which will happen in class each Friday morning during the class spelling lessons.

Behaviour Chart

At Ditton Infant School we have a 7 step behaviour system. The children in Year 1 start their week in the middle of the behaviour chart. If their behaviour exceeds expectations, they will move up 1 step to the clouds and receive a sticker from an adult in their class. If they continue to try really hard, they will move up to the stars and receive a sticker from a member of staff in a buddy class. Finally, if they continue to make good choices, they will move up to the golden book and receive a sticker and certificate from Mrs Lewer. Children can move up for using the Characteristics of Effective Learning, for being a good role-model, being a kind friend, sharing fairly and challenging themselves.

If children do not follow the 'Golden Rules,' they move down 1 step and are required to have 5 minutes thinking time. If behaviour does not improve, they will move down to the next stage and go to a buddy class to have 10 minutes thinking time and parents/carers will be informed at the end of the day. If they move down again to the bottom of the chart they will go to see Mrs Lewer for further thinking time. Parents/carers will be informed in this instance as well.

Drop off and collection

In the morning, children will be collected from their class star on the playground by their class teacher and learning assistant at 8.50am. At 3.10pm the children will be dismissed from their class star on the KS1 playground. We encourage adults to remain behind the painted snake and wait for your child to come to you.

PE Days and Forest School

PE will take place on a **Thursday afternoon** in both **Blue** and **Purple** Class. Please ensure that all items of your child's PE kit and school uniform are named and that you remove your child's earrings on these days.

Purple Class will have Forest School each Tuesday afternoon, and **Blue Class** will have it on a Monday afternoon. Please send your child into school with the appropriate clothing on these days.

Wellie Boots

Please ensure that your child has a pair of named wellie boots at school. These can be stored on the rack which is in the Year 1 outside area. This will enable your child to take part in all outside activities as the weather begins to become wetter.

Books Bags/PE Kits

Our cloakrooms in the Year 1 area are very small so can children please just bring in a book bag which will fit in their trays and a drawstring bag for their PE kit/forest school clothing. Please do not bring in rucksacks.

Learning Assistants

Mrs Staines will be the full-time learning assistant in **Blue Class** this year and Mrs Dearing will be the full-time learning assistant in **Purple Class**.

Suggested Holiday Activities

Practise counting in 2s, 5s and 10s to 100.

Practise writing their names in full e.g. could be in sand at the beach, or using a paintbrush and water.

Think of some questions they would like answered about animals that have paws, claws and whiskers.

Take part in some holiday reading. e.g. magazines, books on aeroplanes.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact us.

Enjoy your last couple of days in Gold and Silver Class.

Have a wonderful summer holiday and we look forward to seeing you in September.

Miss Major, Mrs Mundy and Mrs Staines
Miss Stigle and Mrs Dearing