



September 2020

Dear Parent or Carer,

Welcome to Year 1 and Year 2 in Mardle class! We hope you and your family have had a good summer despite all that is happening in the world at this current time. We hope that you found the welcome videos helpful and that these put your child at ease before coming back into school. We would like to take this opportunity to say how incredibly proud we were of how the children returned to school, particularly as it had been so long since some children had been in the building. Thank you for being flexible with the drop off and collection arrangements. We now seem to have a system that works and that is calm for the children.

Learning in school does look a little different now, however, we have made sure to plan an exciting, engaging and broad curriculum to help to inspire and motivate the children and create long-lasting educational memories. We begin the term with our topic based on the book by Oliver Jeffers, 'Here We Are'. This story is about the world in which we live and about what planet Earth has on it. The children will be spending the first few weeks settling back into a school routine and learning about our emotions and ourselves. We will also be designing our own planet and exploring the outdoor environment. We connect all of our learning through exploring different aspects of Science, Computing, History, Geography, RE, PE, Art, Music and Design and Technology to help form our 'Creative Learning Journey'.

Later this term, we will move onto our topic of 'Superheroes' where the children will meet a diverse range of different superheroes and villains. They will also explore heroes who are ordinary people who have achieved great things or those in emergency services that we admire. We will be comparing superheroes super senses to our own senses and exploring our smell, taste, sound and touch. In science, we will explore healthy foods that superheroes need to keep them fit and strong and see where these foods fit in a food pyramid. There will be many opportunities for PE outside to help us to build our superhero strength too.

Through our work with Challenging Learning and Growth Mindset, Highweek have now developed a love of learning and a resilience essential for great achievement. It is essential that we continue to build upon these skills so that children continue to move forward and reconnect with learning.

Literacy

Very soon, we will be phasing in our phonics scheme called 'Read Write Inc'; a complete literacy programme for 4 to 7 year-olds. We are extremely excited about the impact this has already had on our children's reading and writing at Highweek. Due to current restrictions, the teaching of Read Write Inc may be a little different to what your child is used to but we will be prioritising the teaching of phonics and reading. This will feed into all elements of their writing.

Once Read Write Inc begins, your child will bring home their story book that they have read during their Read Write Inc sessions that week. However, it is important for children to read a range of books and to encourage reading for pleasure so we would love to hear what else you have been reading at home! It is important that you share and celebrate their success so that they feel motivated and inspired to continue reading for pleasure.

Year 1 children undertake Phonic Screening in June 2021. This is a formal reading test set by the Government. All Yr1 children will be expected to segment sounds in words and to blend sounds back together to read real and nonsense words in order to meet the expected level.

Year 2 children did not sit their Phonics Screening check in June 2020. Year 2 children will instead sit their phonics screening before the end of the Autumn Term. Due to the time lost in school, most Year 2 children will remain on the Read Write Inc scheme for the Autumn Term, alongside teaching of grammar and spelling. Your child may also progress onto the Accelerated Reader scheme when they are ready.

You can help by reading with your child at least three times a week and by talking about what they have read. We encourage children to read the same book more than once to support fluency and confidence, to aid understanding and to help them become an 'expert' on the text. Please sign their reading record to show they have read at home so they can independently change books in school. For now, 'Come Read With Me' sessions are suspended, but let's hope that we will be able to invite parents back in for reading in the near future!

Mathematics

In our maths sessions we offer a variety of practical, recorded and verbal activities to develop a range of mathematical skills. There is a strong emphasis on building 'number sense'; a confidence, fluency and 'mastery' of numbers alongside the ability to use or apply them in

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different contexts. It is also really important that your child can manipulate numbers in their heads (mental calculations). You can help by working with them to count, add, subtract, divide, multiply and by learning number bonds (pairs of numbers that make 10, 20, 100 etc). Each day we focus on the basic number skills of counting alongside real life problem solving and investigations. Look out for opportunities in your daily routines to support your child with real-life maths, such as; shopping (money), planning/organising your day (time) and cooking (weighing and measuring.) There is also greater focus on 'reasoning' in maths. You can help by asking questions or prompts for deeper maths thinking and talk. E.g. How do you know? If you know that, what else do you know? Prove that to me. Show me. Convince me. Can that be true? Why?

PE

We have PE on Thursdays. Please ensure that your child has appropriate footwear (trainers or pumps) in school at all times to allow them to access PE lessons safely. It would be really helpful if you could clearly name all shoes, uniform and personal belongings as this saves us a lot of time and confusion!

Preview Work

Your child will be given 'preview tasks' to support and extend their learning in class. If you make time to support your child with this, you will be giving them an advantage in school, as it will provide them with a head start in their learning. This will usually be given out throughout the term with enough time for you to complete the task. All tasks are explained to the children before it is given out but you will need to support your child in order for them to gain the most from it.

If you wish to speak to us, please contact the school office or email me at mtaylor@highweekprimary.co.uk, dpreece@highweekprimary.co.uk and we will get back to you as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your co-operation and support.
M. Taylor, D. Preece and KS1 team