



Whitehorse Manor Infants School



Dear parents and carers of children in Year One,

Welcome back to school and a warm welcome to Year One! The children are becoming more comfortable and confident in their new classes and with their new routines.

This letter tells you what we will be learning about this term and ways you can help your child at home.

This term we are working hard in literacy to develop the children's reading, writing and speaking and listening skills.

In reading, the children will have opportunities to read a variety of books including stories, poems and information texts. We will be developing their confidence to read unknown words using a variety of strategies such as sounding the word out e.g. c - a - t, looking at the pictures for clues and thinking which word would make sense in the sentence e.g. If the sentence was I went to the p??? with a picture of a park, the child could 'guess' the word would be park. We will also be asking them questions about what they have read e.g. 'Who was your favourite character and why?', 'What do you think might happen next?'

How you can help your child at home: Read with them every day! This doesn't always have to be the child reading to you, it can also be you enjoying stories together. This is really important as it allows the children to hear rich story language. Help them to work out unfamiliar words using the strategies outlined above but most importantly, talk to them about the book.

In writing, the children will write about familiar stories, create their own simple poems and think about how to write information. Throughout all of these, our main focus will be to get the children to write great sentences – starting with a capital letter, ending with a full stop, with finger spaces, clear handwriting and developing their use of descriptive language.

How you can help your child at home: Encourage your child to write for a variety of purposes – they could write their own birthday invitations, a shopping list or write about an exciting trip you went on. Attached to this letter is a list of words that you can use to help your child. Please choose about 5 every two weeks to work through with your child. You can write them out on card and have them as 'passwords' to enter different rooms or get your child to find those words in books.

There are a number of great websites that children can use to help develop their confidence in recognising sounds and words including www.phonicsplay.co.uk and www.bbc.co.uk/schools/wordsandpictures. Our school website www.pegasusacademytrust.org also has some fun activities to do with your child. If you click on pupils, Year One zone and at the bottom you will see 'Latest activities to try at home'.

In maths this term, we will be working on developing the children's number knowledge through such activities as recognising and ordering numbers, counting both forwards and backwards, number bonds (different ways to make 5,6,7,8,9,or10) and 1 more or less than a given number. We will also focus on addition and subtraction strategies and looking at the properties of shapes.

How you can help your child at home: There are lots of different and fun ways to help your child become more confident with maths including playing board games with them such as snakes and ladders, counting the

number of steps they take as they walk along (you could also count in 2s, 5s and 10s whilst doing this), recognising door numbers, rolling 2 dice and adding the numbers together or finding the difference between them and using objects to help them count and add. Helping your child to know their number bonds up to 10 is also invaluable. E.g. 6 and 3, 7 and 2, 8 and 1 make 9 etc.

Again some great websites for maths development are www.ictgames.com and www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/ks1/maths/.

Our science topics are 'Ourselves' and 'Seasonal Change'. The children will be joining in lots of fun investigations to learn all about their senses through predicting, observing and recording their results in a variety of ways. We will also be visiting our local park to observe and record seasonal change to plants in autumn. We will then be using this information to create information books.

Our thematic work this term is called 'All About Me' and the children will be finding out about lots of things including looking at Thornton Heath both in the past and present. As part of this topic, the children will be walking to visit Thornton Heath library looking at all the different things they see along the way. They will then be creating their own maps. If anyone has any old photos of Thornton Heath or would be willing to come and speak to the children about how it has changed, please come and see us! We also need your assistance to help the children understand how homes have changed – if anyone has any old artefacts at home, we would love to borrow them. Again, if anyone from any generation is willing to come and speak to the children about how things in our homes have changed from metal bath tubs to mangles, please let us know!

The children will be practising their measuring, cutting and joining skills to create picture frames for portraits and using a variety of materials in art to create collages.

Other important information to help your child settle at school:

Please ensure that they have their P.E. kit in school at all times. Their named P.E. bags can be left on their coat pegs. The P.E. kit should include named black shorts, a white T-shirt and plimsolls. Please make sure all their clothes are named as this helps us to return property to its rightful owner.

The children will bring home a reading book every day. This will be their own personal choice and will sometimes be suitable for them to read on their own and sometimes the book will be better to share. Please write in the reading diary the title of the book and a quick comment about how they got on or enjoyed it. Your child will read with the teacher once a week and they will also put a comment in the reading diary.

Please allow your child to come into school by themselves. This increases their levels of independence and confidence.

Teachers are available after school if you have any queries or concerns, although at times they may need to make an appointment for a more suitable time.

There will be a meeting on Tuesday 22nd September from 9.15a.m – 10.15a.m to tell you more about how we teach reading, phonics and maths in Year One. Please come along if you can.