



High Down Infant School

Believing | Achieving | Learning for life

Executive Headteacher
Mrs A Cowan

15th September 2023

Year 1 Term 1 Welcome to Year 1 Letter September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 1 and the new term. We hope you all managed to enjoy the Summer break and are feeling refreshed and ready for the new term ahead. We are really pleased with the way that the children are settling in and we are enjoying getting to know them.

It has been lovely getting to meet you all and thank you for those of you that were able to join us for the 'Meet the Teacher' session'. If you were unable to attend then hopefully this letter will tell you everything you need to know.

In Ducks Class, Mrs Francis is the class teacher and Mrs Betts is the class SMSA looking after the children at lunchtime. In Swans class, Mrs Peprell is the class teacher and Mrs Urmi is the lunchtime SMSA. In Penguins class Mrs Keys and Mrs Ward are the class teachers and Ms Singer is the lunchtime SMSA. Mrs Betts and Mrs Filer are the LSAs who work with us in all the Year 1 classes. On Wednesday afternoons Mrs Dane and Mrs Keys will be teaching the Ducks and Swans classes to cover teachers' PPA time.

Fruit, water, lunch boxes and milk

Your child may bring in a named **small** piece of fruit to eat during the school day and this must be placed in the class fruit box at the beginning of the day. School fruit is also provided each day in the afternoon.

Please make sure you do not bring any food containing nuts into school. They can also bring a drink of water in a small named bottle, (**no juice or squash please**) and these are stored in boxes either in the classroom or just outside, for the children to access throughout the day. If you would like your child to have a small carton of milk every morning please order using the following website:
www.schoolmilkservices.co.uk

School Uniform, Coats and Book Bags

Please ensure all items are **clearly labelled**, lost items usually return to their owners within a couple of days if named. Lost property is stored in the entrance lobby of the main Infant School building. Please can your child bring a **clearly named book bag** to school every day.

Medication



If your child needs any medication to be stored in school, please could you give it to your class teacher, with instructions on when it needs to be administered. Forms for this information can be emailed to you if you contact the office. Please ensure that all medication is in date.

Parent Helpers We always welcome parent and volunteer helpers into school. If you would like to help in your child's class please contact the class teacher. You will need to complete an agreement form before you start even if you have already done this last year. These can be collected from the office.

The rest of this letter gives an outline of the work that will be covered by your child this term.

In **English** we will be reading and writing stories with familiar settings and looking at labels, lists and captions. This will be linked to our Under the Sea topic.

Reading

The children have an individual reading book to read at home and in school. There is a diary for you to record and comment on your child's reading at home. It really helps for them to read the book twice to help build their fluency. If your child has completed their book they will need to place their book bag in the book changing box when they arrive at school so that it can be changed. (We will try to keep reminding them to do this!). We would be really grateful if you could try and hear your child read at least three times a week, every day if possible! We will also read guided reading texts in class during guided reading sessions. Later in the term your child will also bring home a book from our class book box. This is for **you to read to them** to enjoy the story together and introduce new vocabulary.

There is also a copy of the Year 1 Common Exception words stuck into their reading records. Please help them to learn these.

Phonics

To support children's learning in phonics we will send out a work book containing weekly activities for children to complete with you at home at the beginning of Term 2 (more information to follow).

In **Maths** the children will be learning to:

- Count at least 20 objects and beyond reliably
- Count in ones
- Read, write and order numbers to 20 and beyond
- Count on 1 more or 1 less than any given number
- Understand and use addition and subtraction

Maths Home Learning

To support the children's learning in Maths in Term 2 we will provide log in details for your child to access some Maths games and activities on *Education City* at home (more information to follow).

In **Science** we will be learning about 'Ourselves'. This will involve the study of our senses and learning the names of our body parts. On **21st September** we are having an exciting visit from **Exploredome** to support our learning about the body.

In **Computing** we will be using programs to support Maths and English. The children will be developing



their mouse and keyboard skills and also learning about E Safety.

In **Geography** we will be finding out about the world around us and changes in weather. The children will learn the names of UK countries and the continents and oceans.

In **Design and Technology** sessions we will be exploring weaving techniques. We would be very grateful if you could send in any cut up strips of material or ribbon to help with this.

In **Art** we will be using a variety of collage techniques and finding out about primary colours. We will be looking at some of the work of Andy Warhol to create our own portraits.

Each week we will have two **PE** sessions. Ducks Class has PE on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Swans class has P.E. sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays. Penguins class has PE on Mondays and Fridays. Please make sure your child has Velcro trainers if possible.

There will be an indoor and outdoor session each week and we will be following the scheme 'Real PE' as a school. This terms indoor session is Under the Sea dance and outdoor is focusing on coordination and balance.

In **Personal, Social and Health Education** we will be thinking about "Being Me in My World" within the *Jigsaw* scheme of work.

In **RE** we will be following the *Discovery RE* program where we will be learning about the Creation Story and looking after our world.

Class Awards

On Fridays we will have our celebration assemblies and class awards. Your child at some point in the year will also bring home the class bird for the weekend with a book to record in. We also have a writer of the week and a class writing pack will go home for the weekend.

We hope this letter helps to give you some idea of what your children will be learning at school this term. If you have any general enquiries or questions regarding Year 1 please speak to your class teacher at the end of the day or email or phone the school office.

There is always so much to take in at the start of a new year so please do not hesitate to clarify things with us if you or your child have any queries or worries.

Best wishes and thank you for your support,

The Year 1 Team

Catherine Peprell



Alison Francis



Becky Keys and Jenny Ward

