

GILLESPIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Welcome to Year 1



Wednesday 11th September 2019.

Hello everyone!

Welcome to year 1! I hope you had a lovely summer; you're well rested and ready to start the new school year! I am looking forward to getting to know all of you and working together, so that we can have a very exciting and productive year.

Texting.

After sending texts to you all about the Forest School, I have realised that some people didn't receive them. If you did receive them, you don't need to do anything. **If you didn't**, please can you give Rebecca or Sara in the office your number so that they can update your contact details. If you change your home or mobile number at any point in the year, please remember to give the office your new number.

Transition from Reception to Year 1

Our aim is to ensure that the children experience a smooth transition from Reception to Key Stage 1. The year 1 curriculum builds on the experiences that children have had in Reception. Learning through play continues to be an important part of the day for the children. This will continue throughout the Autumn term. Eventually, the children will be gradually eased into learning that is more formal. The children will develop their use of talk partners and self and peer assessment to support their learning. They will be encouraged to talk about what they have done and how easy or difficult they found certain activities.

Staff

Pauline is Year 1's Teaching Assistant all week. Anna helps us on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, and Pam is 1:1 with a child each morning. Orlando and Gemma will be with Year 1 on a Tuesday morning.

Autumn term



Associate
School



Our topic for the first half term is going to be '**Ourselves**'. Throughout this topic, we will be focusing on:

- The 5 senses of the human body - exploring how they work
- Parts of the body linked to our senses
- Drawing self portraits
- What can we see in our local area?
- Using computers and the internet safely

This half term our PSHE focus will be 'Fun times'. We will talk about and do work around food that is associated with special times in different cultures, active playground games from around the world and sun-safety.

After October half term, our topic will be **Traditional Tales**. Throughout this topic we will be focusing on:

- Reading and retelling many different traditional tales
- Using puppets and drama to investigate the stories
- Looking at characters and settings commonly used in traditional tales
- Looking at the language used
- Planning and writing our own traditional tale

Our PSHE focus for next half term will be 'Feeling safe'. We will talk about and do work around, safety in familiar situations, personal safety and people who help keep us safe outside of the home.

'Animals including humans' will be our Science topic across the whole of the Autumn term. We will be looking at the different animal species: Mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish and birds. Throughout the year, we will identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the UK

English and Maths

In year 1, the children will have daily phonics and English lessons, as well as regular reading and handwriting practice. Our phonics will continue to follow the 'Letters and Sounds' scheme that was used in Reception. During this first half term, we will be repeating the digraphs (2 sounds together. E.g. Ch, sh, ng, th) that were learnt in Reception. After half term, we will begin phase 5 phonics. Our English lessons this term will focus firstly on lists, captions and labels. Later in the term we will learn about conjunctions (and, but, or, because). After half term, we will be learning about nouns, verbs and adjectives and using these when writing our traditional tales.

What you can do at home.

Write lots of lists, such as shopping lists, who is in your family or maybe a list of different pets or wild animals. You may also like to label different things, such as the different parts of a human or animal body, the different areas of a house or you could look for all the different labels in your home, such as on clothes or food.

The children will also have daily Maths lessons and regular mental maths practise. To start the year; as with phonics; we will be recapping on the learning done in Reception. We will count and write numbers to 10 forwards and backwards, count one more and one less than numbers to 10, compare numbers to see which is more or less and also ordinal numbers (1st, 2nd, 3rd).

What you can do at home.

Count on from a number higher than 1. For example, put up 6 fingers and start counting on from there 6,7,8,9 etc. rather than starting at 1. Talk about what is one more and one less than a number and talk about who was 1st, 2nd or 3rd to finish their dinner, wash their hands or run a race. You can use anything to practise finding one more or one less than a number. Food or toys are great things to use.

Important information

P.E Kit and Forest School

We will have our **P.E** lessons on a **Wednesday and Thursday afternoons**. P.E kits should be leggings/tracksuit bottoms/shorts. T-shirt and plimsolls/trainers. Please ensure P.E kit clothes and bags are clearly labelled. On both Wednesday and Thursday, your child should come to school in their school uniform. They will get changed into their P.E kits after lunch and come home in their P.E kit. PLEASE ensure that all clothing has their name in it otherwise it WILL get lost.

For this half term only, we will be going to the Forest School on a Wednesday. On the days that your child is going to Forest School, please send them into school in their Forest school clothes with their P.E kit in their bag. On the days they are **NOT** doing Forest School; please send your child in their school uniform with their P.E kit in their bag.

Library

We will have a **library** visit on a **Monday afternoon**. Children are allowed to borrow 2 books at a time. Books must be returned in order for more books to be taken out.

Reading records and reading books.

Over the course of the next two weeks, your child will be given a reading book and reading record. Reading is the most important homework you can do with your child, as when they can read and understand the text a whole world of knowledge is available to them.

Reading records need to be brought into school every day. Each day Years 1 & 2 have a guided reading session in small groups with an adult. They will read the same book for a week and immerse themselves in the language and the meaning of the book. The adult who is reading with your child that week, will put 1 comment in your child's reading record about what the group has been doing and how your child has read. There will not be a set day for comments to be written in reading records, so **PLEASE ENSURE READING RECORDS ARE BROUGHT IN DAILY.**

Homework

There will be no formal homework for the autumn term. Instead, I would like you to focus on reading with your child, ideally 4/5 times a week. When your child has read their reading book at home and

you have written a comment in their reading record, please send it in your child's bag, so they can change their reading book.

Clothes

If you want a chance of keeping your child's school uniform for a decent amount of time, I encourage you to write their names in **ALL** of their clothes, including their coat. I can guarantee anything that doesn't have a name on, will get lost. If clothing has a name on, we have a better chance of making sure your child keeps their uniform for as long as possible.

Birthdays

When it is your child's birthday, please feel free to send in fruit, as you did in Reception. You do not have to do this, but if you wish to, please cut up any large fruit like pineapples or melon. Or you may wish to send in smaller fruit like bananas or tangerines, which you do not need to cut up.

If you have any questions at any time throughout the year, please do not hesitate to ask me. After school, I will be in the playground where you can catch me for a quick chat, or we can book a time for an appointment. You can also book an appointment via the office. Due to staff meetings, I am not available on Mondays or Fridays.

You can also email me swelburn@gillespie.islington.sch.uk

Weekly summary

- Monday- Reading record and Library book
- Tuesday- Reading record
- Wednesday- Reading record and P.E kit in bag (Forest School clothes if it is your child's week)
- Thursday- Reading record and P.E kit in bag
- Friday- Reading record

- Reading books to be sent in any day of the week after they have been read.

Many thanks,

Steph
(Year 1 class teacher)