

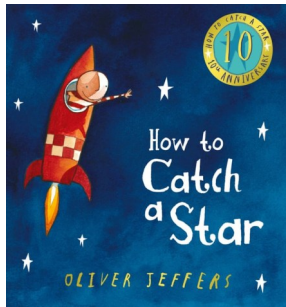
# Year 1

## Autumn Term 1

Welcome to Year 1. We have been delighted with the way that the children have settled into the year group; coming in independently and organising their own belongings is a great start to the term. It has been a pleasure getting to know the children, who are all trying their best with each task they have been given so far - fabulous! We have begun our year with the topic 'The World Outside My Window'. This topic is designed to develop the children's skills through a familiar context. As always, reading remains a major focus for all of our children. We thank you for all the time that you invest in reading at home with your child.

### Literacy

We started the year with the story 'The Gruffalo'. Many of the children were already familiar with this book which gave them confidence as they moved into a new year group. Our next story will be 'How to Catch a Star' by Oliver Jeffers. We will begin by learning to retell the story through actions and signs. The children will also look at a range of stories which use similar language patterns. The children will then write their own versions. At this stage, handwriting, punctuation and spelling are becoming a key focus but 'Talk for Writing' remains at the forefront of everything that we do.



### Reading

As always, reading continues to be a focus for our children. We will be teaching and reinforcing reading comprehension skills through whole class and 'Talk for Reading' sessions. It is vital at this time that the children experience a wide range of genre to enhance their personal reading skills. While stories are great and help the children with their prediction skills, the children also need to read a range of non-fiction books. The variety of genre helps the children to develop their vocabulary and become more familiar with reading for purpose as well as pleasure. **Please make sure that you are covering the criteria in the red, orange and green sections of the bookmarks.** The bookmarks have changed since Reception so please look carefully at what each stage involves. Each stage is really important. **Quality reading is more important than rushing through the stages.** **Your child will be asked to keep their book for two nights just as they did in Reception.** **On the first night the children should read and talk about the story. On the second night the children should either focus on a few pages so that they can practise fluency and pace, or answer questions about the text - Examples: Why did the author use that word? What does that word mean? Can you tell me a sentence with this word in it? What do we call this punctuation?**

### Maths

In Year 1 the children will begin to follow the 'Maths No Problem' scheme. This will build upon the skills and knowledge that they have developed in Foundation Stage. We will begin with numbers and the number system, and number bonds to 10. As the term progresses the children will experience more formal methods of recording addition and subtraction. The ethos of this scheme is to provide a real life context for the maths that children use everyday. The pace of work is quick and the children really enjoy having their own workbook.

### Topic

Our topic work links very closely with the world around us. Through science, the children will learn all about the seasons and how our world changes, and will carry out simple experiments to monitor the weather. They will explore the local bird population and discover how the seasons impact upon this. During our design and technology week the children will evaluate a range of bird feeders and foods. Following this work they will design and make their own bird feeders and fill them with a feed of their own design. Our art work will have a seasons theme. The technique of colour mixing will be used to create leaves for our art display.





## Transition from Reception to Year 1

Year 1 is a very important year for your child. They now begin to move away from the Foundation Stage Curriculum and begin to work with the National Curriculum. Your children will be provided with the support and skills that they need to meet the requirements of this curriculum. The more formal approach to mornings will continue and topic work will remain as practical as possible. The children will be encouraged to take ownership of their learning as we introduce a self-assessment element to each lesson.

## PE Days

PE lessons are on Monday and Thursday. Please make sure that your child has their kit here everyday, and ensure that all kit and uniform is clearly named, as the loss of clothing can be frustrating and costly! As we head into Autumn the children will need warm jogging bottoms and a jumper included in their kit so they can continue to enjoy their lessons in all weathers.

## Specialist Teaching

In Year 1 the children will be taught key subjects by specialist teachers. The subjects taught will include Music, Religious Education and French. The lessons this term will be delivered by Mrs Huesken, Mrs Warrenner and Mrs Fuller.

## Homework

Formal homework will be sent out every **Friday** and will need to be completed by the following **Wednesday**. It will involve learning that we have been focusing on during the week or pre-learning for the following week. Please help your child to complete their homework. We will endeavour to make it a fun experience for both you and your child. **All homework will be sent via and is to be completed on Seesaw.**

## Water bottles

Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle into school everyday. We will remind the children to bring them home each night for washing and refilling. Unfortunately we no longer have water fountains so it is very difficult to provide children with drinks although we will if it's absolutely necessary. **Please remember that it is school policy that water bottles for the classroom should only be filled with water.**

## Contacting us

We are available for a quick word about any urgent issues arising - before and after school. However, please make an appointment after school for any matters you wish to discuss at length so that we can provide you with the time and confidentiality you require.

## Advance notice

Autumn term 2 - Pirate day (children will need a pirate costume)

Spring term 1 - Banquet day (children will need to dress as a castle dweller)

Friday 3rd October - Kinema Trip (letter to follow)

As a team we are all excited about the year ahead. We have lots of exciting learning experiences planned for your children. We thank you in advance for your support. If you have any worries or concerns do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

Best wishes,

Mrs Barclay, Mrs Stonestreet and Miss Butler