

Primary 1B Newsletter – Term 1

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been lovely welcoming the children into Primary 1 and beginning to get to know them. We know starting school is a big step and we are really enjoying helping everyone settle into their new class, make friends and become familiar with the routines.

Classroom Routine

Primary 1B is taught by Mrs Gallacher from Monday to Wednesday and Ms McCauley on Thursday and Friday. We work closely together to make sure the children have a consistent week and that their learning continues smoothly across both parts of the week.

Gym Days

Our gym days are Thursday and Friday. Please send your child ready for gym on these days. Black/ Blue shorts/ leggings/ joggers, trainers, white polo shirt, school jumper/ cardigan. No earrings please. Children should wear trainers to school on these days for health and safety.

This term, we will be learning and practising skills including throwing, catching and balancing. We will also spend time learning the routines and expectations for using the PE hall safely and confidently.

Literacy

At the beginning of Primary 1, our main focus is on developing the important early skills children need before and alongside learning to read and write. This includes phonological awareness, such as listening carefully to sounds, recognising rhyme, hearing sounds within words and remembering and following instructions. We are also working on recognising and writing our own names.

As the term progresses, the children will begin learning their sounds and using these to develop their early reading and writing skills.

Later in the term, children will begin bringing home two reading books each week, with one issued on Monday and another on Wednesday. **Please make sure reading books are brought back to school in school bags every day, as they will be used during lessons.** Reading books should be returned before another book can be issued.

Numeracy

We will be developing the children's early number skills through lots of practical and active learning. This will include recognising and ordering numbers, counting, number formation, patterns and developing an understanding of numbers before, after and between.

We will also be introducing Number Talks, encouraging children to talk about numbers, explain what they notice and begin developing their mental maths skills.

Health and Wellbeing

Our Health and Wellbeing focus this term is emotions and settling into school. We will be helping the children to recognise and talk about different feelings, develop friendships and become increasingly confident and independent within their new school routines.

Music

Every second week, Primary 1 will take part in YMI Music. This will give the children opportunities to enjoy music together and develop their musical skills through practical activities.

Our IDL Topic

Our interdisciplinary learning focus is 'From Home to School'.

We will be thinking about the places that are important to us and learning about the area in which we live. The children will explore simple maps and will begin creating their own maps showing familiar places and routes within their local area.

Homework and Seesaw

We will be using Seesaw for homework and also to share some of the amazing learning taking place in our classroom. Login information will be sent home to families.

Homework on Seesaw will support what the children are learning in school and will include literacy, numeracy and some of the different focuses and projects we explore throughout the term.

A blank jotter will also be sent home. This is there to support homework and to encourage children to practise putting pencil to paper. It is not expected that every homework activity is completed in the jotter.

How Can I Help My Child?

- Talk about your child's lunch choices before school where possible.
- Help your child to recognise their own name, including finding it amongst other names.
- Practise writing their name with one capital letter at the beginning and lower-case letters for the rest.
- Read and enjoy stories together. Talk about what happened, favourite parts and any words that rhyme.
- Practise counting and recognising numbers in everyday life.
- Practise forming numbers 0-10.
- Ask simple questions such as, "What number comes before...?", "What comes after...?" and "What number is between...?"
- Most importantly, talk to your child about their day and celebrate the new things they are learning!

We are really looking forward to working with your child and supporting them throughout their first year at school. If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to us at the school gate or contact the school office.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Gallacher & Ms McCauley

Primary 1B Class Teachers