



Butterfly Class Newsletter Autumn Term 1



Welcome to Year One at Weare Academy First School! I am your child's new class teacher, Mrs Malcolm.
Our Teaching assistant is Miss Baker.

We have introduced class names in school and year 1 class will be known as 'butterfly' class. Throughout the year you will receive half-termly class newsletters which will inform you of everything we will learn about so please have a read through to keep up to date with our current learning.

Literacy

We will begin the year with a 'building a sentence' focus, where the children will be saying and writing sentences using full stops, capital letters and finger spaces alongside a focus on pencil control and handwriting skills. We will then begin our first story focus this year which will be the **The three little pigs**, a 'defeating the monster' tale. In this unit we will do our first 'big' piece of story writing. In our school we follow the talk for writing process meaning we will complete a 'cold write' task, followed by a period of learning our model text (the three little pigs). We will then work together to 'innovate' the three little pigs to create our own class story e.g. changing the three little pigs to the three little chickens, and the big bad wolf to the huge hungry fox (of course the children will choose how we innovate our text). The children will then be tasked with a 'hot write' where they will independently write their own 'defeating the monster' tale, using all the writing techniques they have learned.

Phonics lessons will take place every day. Sometimes, even twice a day! We will start the year by revisiting all of the sounds the children learnt in reception but with more of a focus of applying them to sentence reading and writing. The children will also begin learning 'grammar' within our phonics lessons e.g. proper nouns, punctuation, capital letters, verbs etc.

Reading will be central to everything we do in Year 1 with lots of opportunities to practise reading, prediction and comprehension in weekly guided reading sessions and 1:1 reading with adults.

Topic

This half term our topic learning will be based around science, geography and art. Our topic enquiry is 'Why do we recycle?' This topic is geography based and will cover the following enquiry questions in each lesson.

- What happens to all our rubbish?
- What do we mean by recycling?
- Why is plastic environmentally unfriendly?
- How can we be more environmentally friendly?

This geography learning fits well with this half terms science focus of 'Everyday materials'. In this science unit the children will be taught to:

- Distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made.
- Identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and rock.
- Describe the simple physical properties of a variety of everyday materials.
- Compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties.

Towards the end of the half term we will have a short focus on the Autumn season as a component of our science curriculum is 'seasonal changes'. This will be complemented with an art focus on Georgia O'Keeffe's Autumn leaves.

ICT

In year one the children have many opportunities to develop their ICT skills in the classroom with designated ICT lessons, where we will be taking full advantage of the school's chrome book collection. However, this term we will be looking at programming and moving Beebots - a firm favourite with the children! You may remember them from school yourself! Each half term we will also learn about online safety, this half term we will be thinking about being kind and responsible online.



French

We are extremely lucky to have the trust's primary school French teacher teaching all of the children in our school this year! Mr Sage is such an asset to our school and is an extremely thoughtful and thorough French teacher who has been working really hard to link his French vocabulary teaching to our topics in year 1. He has worked in the trust for many, many years and is very experienced, he even taught me when I was younger!

PE

PE will be with Mr Coggins on a Thursday. Please ensure your child's PE kit is in school by the first Thursday of this half term. With Mr Coggins this half term the children will be learning the fundamentals of fitness.

Homework

In year one we set weekly homework tasks for literacy/maths/topic (it will only be one of these each week - not all 3!). Homework will be sent home every Friday in a homework folder. Can this please be completed and returned by the following Thursday. Additionally, the children will be given a set of spellings every week - based on the sounds they will be learning in phonics during the week. These spellings will come home stuck in a 'phonics homework book'. Spellings need to be learnt for a spelling test the following Friday. I will discuss this more at our information evening later this month.

Reading books

1 reading book will be sent home for every child at the start of every week, starting next week (11th September). It is a school expectation that every parent reads with their children at least 4 nights a week. This will need to be signed off in your child's reading record every time you have read. Being a parent myself, I know that this is not always easy/straightforward. It is very normal for many children to 'resist' reading, particularly if they might be finding it tricky. If you are having any issues with reading at home, please come and see me and we can support your child together.

Marble Jar

This year our class will be using a marble jar to promote positive behaviour in the classroom. When the children have worked together to fill up the marble jar they will be rewarded with a 'treat' of their choice. We have agreed that this will either be a movie afternoon or them being able to bring in their toys from home for golden time. When they have filled up the jar I will send around a notification via dojo so that you are aware of when they are able to bring in home toys.

Volunteer Parent Readers

I would like to take this opportunity to ask, if anyone can spare some time to volunteer to read with the year 1 children this year. Being a small village school, we rely on volunteers for extra reading opportunities for our children in school. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please send me a message on class dojo and together, we can liaise with the school office to organise this.

Drop off

Please feel free to bring your child to the classroom for the first couple of days, however we ask that parents do not enter the classroom beyond the first day and that you drop off at the blue door. In year 1 we start to teach the children to have some independence and to do simple tasks for themselves. It is so important that the children take responsibility for their belongings and start to empty their bags and organise their belongings by themselves, please do not do it for them. If they need help, Miss Baker and I are there to support them and over time this will all come naturally to them. It would be great if all children were doing stop and drop by the end of the second week.

If you wish to communicate with me throughout the year, please feel free to send a message through class dojo at any time and I will try my best to get back to you as soon as possible. We do also offer an 'open door policy', do not hesitate to come and speak to me at the end of the day if you have any pressing worries or concerns.

**Many Thanks,
Mrs Malcolm and Miss Baker.**