

Dear Parents/Carers and children,

Welcome back! We hope you have had a lovely time over the summer and that you are looking forward to a new school year in Beech Class! We are looking forward to having an exciting and productive year and hope you enjoy the new challenges that this year has to offer.

Our aim is to ensure that the Year 1 pupils experience a smooth transition from the Foundation Stage in to Key Stage 1. Learning through play will continue to be an important part of the day in Beech Class as we build upon and extend the experiences the children have had in their previous learning. The children will gradually be eased into more formal learning as the year progresses.

Topic - Land Ahoy!

As you may have guessed from the hats and eye patches the children have been creating, our first learning theme for this year is all about pirates! We will introduce the children to what it means to be a historian and begin to talk about the past. We will investigate the lives of significant people who lived during the Golden Age of pirates and learn what it was like to live on board a pirate ship sailing the seven seas. We will learn about the phrases and traditions relevant to pirate life and read lots of texts linked to our theme such as *The Night Pirates*, *Pirates Next Door*, and *Never Mess with a Pirate Princess*.

Phonics and Spelling

Phonics will continue to be taught daily to all Y1 children following our programme 'Little Wandle - Letters and Sounds revised'

Children in Year 1 will also take part in Reading Practice sessions where we will focus on decoding (sounding out), prosody (reading with expression), and comprehension. The children will reread the same practice book during these sessions throughout the week in order to develop their fluency. The more children see words, the more they begin to read them automatically without having to sound them out.

Although your child will be taught to read in school, you can have a huge impact on their reading journey by continuing their practice at home.

There will be two types of book that your child will bring home:

- **A reading practice book:** This will have been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. This is to ensure that when your child is reading their book, they should be fluent and automatic. The aim is that the children read these books at 95% fluency.

- **A sharing book:** This is a book that they have chosen for you to enjoy together. In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure.

Year 1 children will continue to bring home a phonics home learning letter that will provide an overview of the sounds and spellings covered in class during the week. Please take the time to look at these with your children.

Maths

In maths Year 1 will be focusing on place value by counting, representing, ordering and comparing numbers to 10 before moving on to addition and subtraction later this term.

Science

Our science this term will focus on Animal Needs for Survival. We will learn about the different animal groups (mammals, birds, fish, amphibians, and reptiles) and begin to learn about the scientific skills of identifying, grouping, and classifying. We will be identifying the similarities and differences between the animals and their needs for survival as well as asking ourselves how we can help care for animals in our locality.

RE

In RE we will be asking ourselves the question 'Who made the world?'. We will be learning to retell the story of creation from *Genesis* and explore ways in which Christians say thank you to God for the creation. We will be thinking, discussing, and asking questions about living in an amazing world.

PE and Forest School

PE will take place for Beech class on a Friday morning. Please make sure that your child comes into school on the day wearing their PE kit.

Forest School for Beech Class will take place on a Monday afternoon. Half the class will spend the afternoon with Mr Chidwick and the other half will complete outdoor adventurous activities with myself. We will be sending the children home in their Forest School kits in order to maximise on our time in the woodland.

If you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to get in touch via the school office or at the end of the day.

We are looking forward to working closely with you and your children this year!

Miss Roberts, Miss Scott and Miss Holden

