



# HORRINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mrs Julie Williams

09 September 2016

## Welcome to Class 1!

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope you had a very enjoyable and relaxing Summer break and we welcome you to a new school year.

This letter tells you some of the things your child will be learning this half-term. It includes (in italics) some ideas for things to try at home to support your child's learning. We hope you find it useful.

Class 1 is taught by Miss Sam Ray and is supported by Mrs Shirley Groves and Mrs Joanne Stephens. Once a week Mrs Shelley Prior teaches music. There are 25 children in the class; 16 children in Reception and 9 children in Year 1.

Our focus question for this half term is: '**How can I tell others about myself?**' We will be exploring who we are and where we come from, which will include researching our families, investigating different types of homes, and our likes and dislikes.

Below follows a more in-depth look at our curriculum coverage for this Enquiry Topic:

### Reception

The children will explore their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through play, talk and creative media. The children will begin phonics, in which they learn and practise different letter sounds and the skills of blending and segmenting, all of which links to the first steps in reading and spelling. The children will immerse themselves in a range of stories and poems, begin to develop their skills in number and shape, and explore their ideas through role play, music, construction and art. Throughout the school day the children will participate in a range of indoor and outdoor activities, both child-initiated and adult-led in order for them to develop the necessary skills, and it is always good practice to plan from the children's interests when creating the learning environment.

## **Year 1**

### **English**

Our English this half-term will start with a fun exploration of Roald Dahl's 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', before then focusing on stories with familiar settings. We will be retelling stories; writing labels, lists and captions for the different characters and settings using descriptive language; and developing our understanding of phonics. We will then use these skills to write our own version of one of the stories.

*At home try: read and be immersed in different stories and talk about the characters in terms of what they look like and their personalities; have a go at creating captions for the characters.*

### **Maths**

In our maths this half-term we will be developing our knowledge of number to ensure that our place value and our skills in counting are secure. We will extend our work on addition and subtraction, as well as explore 2D shape.

*At home try: talking about number in everyday home life, for example when shopping and playing games; finding 2D shapes at home.*

### **Science**

During our exploration of 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory', we will carry out a range of experiments involving chocolate in order to develop our skills in scientific investigation. We will then start to learn about the season of Autumn by learning the different signs of Autumn; developing our understanding of the changes that take place; and finding out about Autumnal weather.

*At home try: talking about what happens in the natural world when the seasons change; going on an Autumn walk looking at the different trees and talking about the changes that take place.*

### **Computing**

Our computing will focus on learning about how to stay safe when on the internet, using drawing programs to create character portraits and looking at how we use technology in our everyday life.

### **Geography**

Our geography this term will focus on looking at the four countries of the UK and where we live.

*At home try: talking about the places that you visit and the home that you live in.*

### **History**

We will start by looking at the history of chocolate and where it comes from, before then focusing on our family histories and different houses and homes from the past up until today.

*At home try: finding out about family history by talking about it and sharing photographs.*

### **Art**

We will be exploring the use of colour which will then lead to a particular focus on pop art. We will look at the work of Andy Warhol and David Hockney in preparation for creating our

own piece of pop art using familiar objects. We will also learn about how we can use technology in our art work through the medium of computers and cameras.

*At home try: talking about different colours and how they make us feel; looking at photographs and paintings of familiar household objects.*

### **Music**

In our music the children will be learning about pulse and ensemble. We will be looking at different songs and using the percussion instruments to enhance our music. We will also be exploring body percussion and the sounds that we can produce using our bodies.

*At home try: talking to your child about some of the sounds they hear in a favourite piece of music and try to copy some simple rhythms by clapping their hands, stamping their feet, clicking their fingers.*

### **PSHE**

We will be exploring the themes of personal hygiene, teamwork, friendship and how to stay healthy.

### **PE**

Our PE this term will focus on spatial body awareness, co-ordination and balance.

### **Additional information**

Children are sent home with a reading book each week and we encourage you to listen to them read as often as you can, writing any comments in your child's reading diary. Children will also read other material with the class teacher once a week during Guided Reading Sessions. It is really useful if you bring book-bags and books **every day**. Year 1 children will receive phonics, spelling, maths / writing homework each Friday, which is to be handed in by the following Thursday. Reception children will receive phonics homework each week, which will involve a variety of activities.

Please ensure your child brings a bottle of **water** to keep hydrated throughout the day (squash attracts the wasps). These should not be placed in the book-bags. Please also ensure that your child has a healthy fruit/ vegetable snack for morning break time. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with a fruit or vegetable snack for afternoon break time.

Our cloakroom space is very small with very limited hanging space; please ensure the only bag your child brings to school is a Horrington School book-bag (and a lunch box if applicable). We ask that children do not bring in any toys or personal possessions from home, unless it is for their 'Show and Tell' session (timetable will follow shortly).

If you feel you have a little time to spare and would like to come into school to help with tasks such as reading, group work or class admin, please come and let us know – we will be very grateful! Please be aware that you need to be DBS cleared to help in school. If you would like to help in school and you don't currently have a DBS for our school, please speak to us or contact the school office.

We hope you and your child have a happy and rewarding time this year in Class 1. Please do come and have a chat if you have any concerns, questions or ideas.

We hope this letter has been of some help.

Best wishes

Miss Sam Ray, Mrs Shirley Groves and Mrs Joanne Stephens