



The Abbey CE VA Primary School

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YEAR 1 TERMLY CURRICULUM LETTER AUTUMN TERM 2017

Dear Parents,

Assessment

We are pleased to see how well the children have settled into Year 1. The children have already made a good start to their studies and we are confident that this will continue as the term progresses.

The move from Early Years to Year 1 is a big step. It is the first time that your children are being exposed to and assessed against the National Curriculum. In the Reception Class they were focusing on the Early Learning Goals and at the very end of the academic year you received assessment gradings in the annual report against very different criteria to what will now be used in the Year 1-6 National Curriculum.

By the end of Reception your child was assessed against the Early Learning Goals that fall into three parts: emerging, expected and exceeded. If your child was assessed as 'expected' in any areas there was evidence that they covered and solidly understood the Early Years curriculum and were where they should be for their age at the final assessment period.

If any of the children were assessed as 'entering' then they will need to consolidate their understanding and skills in the first term of Year 1 just to ensure they have a sound comprehension of those particular skills. We will provide the opportunities for these children to do this.

If your child was assessed as 'exceeding' then they showed a continued understanding and broader knowledge of the Early Years curriculum by demonstrating that they were more of an independent learner who consistently displayed these skills. A child who was assessed as 'exceeding' at the end of Reception will enter into Year 1 with all their Early Learning Goals and will not have to recap any objectives from the previous year.

In Year 1, the assessment criteria changes because the children are now working within the National Curriculum and the Reception assessment vocabulary is no longer used.

Following the introduction of the new National Curriculum for Years 1-6 in 2014 and new assessment and reporting arrangements the Abbey School staff will assess the children's level of attainment at the end of each term (December, March, May) in Years 1-6 using the phrases:





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- **Securely within Age Related Expectations (ARE)**
- **Broadly within ARE**
- **Below ARE**
- **Above ARE**

Formal 10 minute parent/teacher consultations take place in the middle of the Autumn and Spring Terms (October and February). This is an opportunity to discuss your child's progress, behaviour, social interactions and English and maths strengths and areas for development. The children's English and Maths books will be available for parents to look at. An annual report to parents is produced in the summer term.

Curriculum Meeting

We look forward to seeing many of you at the annual **Year 1 Curriculum Meeting** on Friday 29th September at 2.30-3.20pm. On occasions such as these, parents must enter via the front door of school. The Year 1 class will not be in the classroom during the curriculum meeting and normal end of day arrangements will be in place.

Please be mindful if you are planning to bring pre-school children to a meeting where a teacher is presenting to a large number of parents that your child is quiet and close to you during the talk so that staff can communicate effectively with all the parents in the room. The same applies to a class assembly or Nativity performance. If your pre-school child is distressed at any time during an assembly or a meeting, we politely ask that you comfort your child or remove them discreetly until they are settled when you are welcome to return. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Reading Levels

Some of your children might have changed their reading level this term following our recent assessments. Please do not be concerned if your child appears to have 'moved down' a level. This can be a common occurrence straight after the long summer holidays. They will quickly move up again- as we continue to assess their reading. It is very important that children read at their level and are not daunted if they become stuck. We want to make reading fun and achievable. If you feel your child should be moved up, please let us know but be mindful that we take great care with our assessments.

Summary of Curriculum Objectives

Below, for your information, we have outlined a summary of the curriculum that we will be covering throughout the Autumn Term.

Mathematics

Before half term

Number and place value: Estimate and count objects, count on and back and order numbers.

Mental addition and subtraction: Find pairs that make 10, match this with number sentences.

Doubling numbers, finding 1 and 2 more or less than a number.

Geometry, properties of shapes: Recognise, name and describe 2D shapes; recognise basic line symmetry; sort 2D shapes according to their properties, using Venn diagrams and Carroll diagrams.

After half term

Number and place value: Compare and order numbers to 20, then 30; find the number between two numbers with a difference of 2; understand and use ordinal numbers; recognise coins and know values (up to £2); begin to make amounts in pence; understand teen numbers are 10 and some 1s.

Mental addition and subtraction: Revise bonds to 10; use addition to solve subtractions; use number facts to solve word problems. Add by counting on; subtract by counting back; begin to add three small numbers by spotting bonds to 10 or doubles (1-6).

Geometry, position and direction: Describe position and direction using common words.



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Measurement: Compare lengths and heights; estimate, compare and measure lengths using uniform non-standard and standard units.

English

Before half term

Abbey writers- Recount writing.

Fiction Unit 1.1- Guess what

Poetry Unit 1.1- Sensational senses

After half term

Non-fiction unit 1.1- Recount writing, information texts.

Live Unit 1.1- Performing poems

In addition to this the children will take part in guided reading and daily phonics lessons. A phonics meeting for parents will be organised in the Spring term to discuss the Phonics Screening Check, week of 11th June.

Science

Before half term:

Changing Seasons

In this unit children will learn that there are four seasons, the names for these seasons and that there are differences between them. This half of the term, the focus will be on autumn. The children will go on an autumn walk where they will look for signs of autumn, using their self-designed check lists. Focus will be made on tree seeds and dispersal (conkers, sweet chestnuts, pine cones, acorns and sycamores). They will learn about autumnal animal behaviour and create fact files about hedgehogs and squirrels – focusing on how they prepare for the colder weather as autumn moves onto winter.

Parts of Animals

Children will identify and name the basic external parts of the human body and recognise the functions of some body parts, including the sense organs. They will construct and label a map of the human body and will draw comparisons between human and animal body parts. They will consider how to treat other people and living things with care and respect. Investigative work will focus on exploring the senses, observing and communicating ideas about their own body parts and recording their ideas in diagrams.

After half term:

Parts of Animals

Children will describe and compare common animals, and will recognise and name a variety of animals and their body parts. Investigative work will focus on exploring observing and communicating ideas about animals, and recording their ideas in diagrams.

Changing Seasons

As autumn moves onto winter, the children will identify the weather changes. They will observe day length changes, temperature, rain/snow fall, wind strength, cloud conditions and the continue to observe the accompanying changes to plants and animals within their local environment. They will describe and record their findings and compare the differences between autumn and winter

Our class topic is '**Weather Explorers**'. Throughout our topics we aim to create challenging learning opportunities across all areas of the curriculum. This topic will last until Christmas and covers Geography, Design and Technology, Art and Design.

Geography- This topic provides an excellent platform for children to enquire about and explore the world around them. They will have the opportunity to make a weather chart and film their own weather forecasts! They will learn about the countries and capital cities of the UK, points of the



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compass and weather symbols along the way. The children will be introduced to the impact of human activity on climate.

Design and Technology-Look at homes adapted to different climates around the world. Create a storm-resistant den and a flood-resistant house.

Art and Design- The children will have plenty of opportunities to be creative and develop and share their ideas. They will be using a range of materials to design and make products inspired by artists. Children will be introduced to famous artists and works of art, they will make their own versions of art using different techniques including: brushstrokes, texture, colour, line, pattern and shape.

R.E.- We will be thinking about the Creation story and asking big questions. We will be considering the meaning of Advent as preparation for Christmas as well as the deeper meaning of Christmas. As a class, we will spend time discussing prayer and the children will have daily access to our RE area, where we have a reflective prayer area. The children will also focus on our class Christian value: Love.

Computing- Let's Create- Selecting and using a range of digital appliances purposefully on different digital devices to create, organise, manipulate, store, retrieve digital content.

Music- Sounds topic- Sing and use voices expressively and creatively; explore pitch, duration, and appropriate forms of notation; listen to, review, and evaluate music; explore structure, timbre, and dynamics and play instruments.

PE – This term the children will be taught: movement skills and throwing and catching, gymnastics and dance. Movement skills and throwing and catching will be taught outside every week.

What do we expect of you, the parents? You can help and support us by:

- Regularly checking your child's reading diary.
- Listen to your child read each evening (or as often as possible).

Reading books will be changed every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please ensure that you sign your child's reading record so that we know that the book is ready to be changed. Every Wednesday the children will have the opportunity to choose any book in the school library to take home for the week. Please ensure that books are returned each week in order for your child to be able to select a new one.

Your child should have his/her PE kit in school every Tuesday and Thursday and outdoor sports clothing (including socks and trainers) will be needed for outdoor games sessions. Please make sure that all items of clothing are named. It is a statutory requirement that all children must participate in games sessions. If your child does not have their kit on a games day then they will have to participate in the session in their school uniform and school shoes. If your child has a genuine medical reason why they cannot take part in a games session then a note must be provided. If your child wears earrings, you may choose to take them out on PE days. However if you would prefer we could cover the earrings for the duration of the lesson. If your daughter wears tights to school, please ensure she has a pair of socks in her sports kit to wear for PE lessons.

Who will be working with your children this term?

Mrs Hare will be teaching in Year 1 every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mrs Gifford will teach on a Thursday and Friday. Mrs Moorhouse will be working with the class as the teaching assistant. Qualified P.E. coach, Mr Morgan, will also be working with the children on a Tuesday for P.E sessions (Mrs Gifford will teach the Thursday PE session). Mrs Price will teach the children weekly music lessons and lead Singing Assembly.



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If, at any stage, you have questions or require further clarification relating to any aspect of your child's school activities, in the first instance please come into school and speak with the Mrs Hare or Mrs Gifford. We have appreciated your support and assistance so far in this new academic year and we are confident that you will continue to work with us to ensure that your child has a happy and successful term.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Gifford and Mrs Hare
Year 1 Class Teachers