

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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Year 1 – Goldsworthy - Autumn Newsletter

8th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Year 1 (Class: Goldsworthy)! We hope you have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. We are really excited about the year ahead and hope you are too!

Everyone is settling into Year 1 brilliantly, however if your child expresses any worries at all then please make contact with one of the Year 1 teaching team at the end of the school day, so we can make the start of Year 1 as positive as possible.

Ensuring a smooth transition from Foundation Stage to Year 1 is a priority for us and one of our aims is to build upon the independence started in Reception; your support with this would be greatly appreciated. We are looking forward to working together so your children can have an exciting and productive year.

Curriculum

This half term our English lessons will be based around the text, "The Magic Porridge Pot". We will develop our understanding of character, our use of the tools used for description and continuing our writing journey by learning to write in sentences with the appropriate grammar and punctuation. In Maths, we will be working primarily with numbers 0-10; learning to estimate, regroup, add, subtract and solve a variety of problems within this range. In Science, we are focusing on "Ourselves" which includes our senses, our bodies and how they work. We are going to be exploring all of the technology around us in Computing and in DT we will be about eating more fruit and vegetables. In History, we will be investigating toys and games throughout recent history and comparing those to our favourites nowadays and in Geography, we will be learning about the weather and how it affects our lives. Art will focus on drawing skills. In RE, we will be investigating the question "Does God want Christians to look after the world?". Our Music topic will be "Introducing the Beat". PSHE will align with the whole school topic of "Being Me".

Clothing

Please ensure your child has a coat in school every day. Even if the weather looks fine in the morning it can often change and we will be taking our learning outside even if the weather is bad!

Please can you ensure that your child's belongings are clearly labelled with their name, in particular:

1. All items of clothing (shirts, shorts, dresses, skirts, shoes, cardigans, PE shirts, PE shorts, hats, coats, gloves)
2. Lunchbox (where appropriate)
3. Water bottle
4. Book bag (As we are very limited on cloakroom space we request that children do not bring in large rucksacks)
5. PE bag

Helping your child to understand that they are responsible for their own belongings is really useful. We always do our best to track down missing items and help the children to organise themselves, but inevitably things will go missing from time to time - clear labelling helps avoid this.

A quick check that your child has items 1-4 above by whoever picks your child up from school can be useful to help children establish a routine.

PE lessons

PE will be on Tuesday (indoors) and Thursday (Forest School). We will also continue to take part in the Daily Mile. On Tuesdays, please ensure your child is wearing the following:

- Blue t-shirt (plain or with a Westfield logo)
- Black shorts
- Black bottoms (plain joggers or leggings)
- Blue jumper (Westfield hoodie, Westfield school jumper or cardigan)
- Trainers

There should not be any other coloured items being worn. Please also ensure that your child is not wearing any branded items with large logo's on them. Thank you.

Forest School

Forest school will be each Thursday afternoon for the first half term. On Thursdays they will need to come **IN TO SCHOOL** wearing their Forest school clothes and trainers. Please can they also bring their wellies inside a NAMED plastic bag so they can change into these at the start of their session. Their Forest school clothes should be trousers and long sleeved top with a warm hoodie/jumper as they will be going out in all weathers.

Reading books

We aim to hear your child read as regularly as possible and the children's books will be changed once a week. These books will be brought home for children to read to an adult - hearing a child read the same book several times is an excellent way to develop their reading confidence and fluency. Children should be reading these books easily, making very few errors. Children should read every day at home for a minimum of 10 minutes. In most cases, this will be the child reading to an adult on a one-to-one basis. In addition to this, reading sessions could also include listening to taped stories and listening to stories read by parents/carers using a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. Electronic texts e.g. official regulated websites and eBooks can also be used. Each child will be given reading books and a reading record. Please write the title of the book and your comments in their reading record books and return them to school **every day**.

Reading challenge

Reading regularly has a hugely positive impact on children's academic abilities. The Reading challenge encourages regularly reading, with children receiving certificates as a reward. Certificates will be given out on Friday assemblies. An adult must sign the reading record in order for it to be counted towards receiving a certificate. Please note that recording reading several times the same day will only be counted as reading once. Your support with this is appreciated.

Home Learning

In addition to daily reading each half term there will be a list of optional suggested activities that the children can complete at home. These activities will focus on supporting the learning in school that half term and will focus on hands on activities, family orientated tasks and independent learning opportunities. There will also be a 'Key Instant Mathematics Recall' list which your child will be focusing on for that term. Mathematical development is dependent on children having a secure grasp of key number facts so regular practise of these at home will be hugely beneficial.

Spellings will be given in the Spring Term once we feel the children are ready for it and that it would be beneficial to their learning. When we feel the children are ready for this, we will inform you.

Daily Mile

We will be taking part in the Daily Mile. For children coming into school wearing trainers you do not need to provide any additional shoes for the Daily Mile. If your child prefers to wear school shoes, please provide a pair of trainers for PE and the Daily Mile.

If you would like to speak to us about your child, quick messages can be passed to us in the mornings. However, the mornings are very busy so for longer communications please hand us a note which we can read and respond to you by the end of the day. We appreciate your understanding and support with this.

We are looking forward to the year ahead.

Kind regards

Mrs Ramm, Mrs Spratley, Mrs Waheed, Mrs Sharman, Mrs Bray and Mr Bray

Please note:

For an overview of our topics covered this year please see the plans available on our class page on our school website.

Key Dates for your diary:

Day of Languages – Tuesday 26th September
Tempest Photography (Individual Photos) – Wednesday 27th September
Macmillan Coffee Morning – Friday 29th September
INSET Day – Friday 6th October
Parents Evening – Tuesday 17th and Wednesday 18th October
Harvest Festival at St Mary's Church (TBC) – Friday 20th October
Half-Term – Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October
Open Learning Morning – Friday 3rd November
Flu Vaccinations – Thursday 9th November
Cool to be Kind Week – Monday 13th to Friday 17th November
Children in Need – Friday 17th November
INSET Day – Friday 24th November
INSET Day – Monday 27th November
EYFS & KS1 Christmas Assembly – Friday 8th December
Child Shows Parent – Tuesday 12th December
RockSteady Concert – Friday 15th December
Christmas Lunch – Tuesday 19th December
Christmas Carols at St Mary's Church (TBC) – Wednesday 20th December