Knightlow C of E Primary School

Year One Learning Newsletter

September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year One! We are so excited to welcome you and your child into the Year One family and myself and the wonderful Mrs Salt and Mrs Brady as teaching assistants feel privileged to teach your child this year and support them on their learning journey. Year One is a huge year, where your child will overcome challenges, academically grow immensely and will develop a huge amount of independence. As throughout the rest of school, your child's wonderful and individual personalities will be celebrated and we urge you to share any momentus moments with us though 'Yet' vouchers and pictures. Whether its helping to load the dishwasher, trying a new food or learning to tie their shoe laces, please let the Year One family celebrate with you!

The children have already had a brilliant start to the new year and have adapted to their new environment and routines brilliantly! They have really blown us away with their performance skills as we have learnt and performed the poem 'Please do not feed the animals' by Robert Hull. If your child has not performed the first line of this poem to you, please do ask them as it is a real treat!

For those of you who were unable to make the Meet the teacher event this week, you will find the PowerPoint on the class page on the school website this coming week. It was lovely to see some new and some familiar faces on Wednesday.

Please find attached an outline of the curriculum for the half term ahead. I am looking forward to the exciting learning opportunities and activities ahead. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Year One team either on the gate, through the office or at the end of the school day.

Kind regards,

Mrs Stapleton and the Year One Team

AUTUMN LEARNING - TERM ONE

Homework

The children will be given weekly spellings every Friday which correspond to the previous weeks Phonics learning. Furthermore, your child's reading books will also be changed every Thursday. If your child needs new reading books sooner, please do not hesitate to either ask a member of the Year One staff either on the gate, at the end of the day or ask your child to give us a post-it note. The children are benchmarked and assessed with RWI regularly to ensure that they are reading at the most appropriate book bands. You should have access to Numbots, which helps build your child's confidence and fluency with number.

English

In English this half term, the children will be exploring the book 'Astro Girl' as their writing stimulus. The children have already arrived into the classroom to discover a backpack that contains several items and deduce that the owner might be an astronaut. As we progress through the term, the plot will be slowly revealed, allowing the children to write in role as Astrid the main character. During the unit, the children will be using the nouns found to create commands in the format of a how to' guid and will collaborate to pose questions and write predictions as responses before reading to the end of the text. The children will then write a simple leaflet about training to be an astronaut, space-travel and other related facts.

As always, the children will be practising implementing learnt Phonics sounds, finger spaces, capital letters and full stops. This year, we are putting a huge focus on reading and writing red words/common exception words so if you are able to practise these words at home little and often, we would be really grateful.

Maths

This half term the children will continue using the CPA (concrete, pictorial and abstract) approach that they are familiar with in Reception to build links, deepen their understanding and further develop their maths skills. The children will be focusing on place value within 10. Here, the children will be recapping on key number skills such as counting forwards and backwards, sorting amounts and finding one more or one less. The children will also begin comparing numbers using the vocabulary less than, greater than and equal to. Gaining a secure understanding of place value is pivotal in your child's number journey, so the deeper embedded these skills are the easier they will find it to make links between their learning as we progress through the year.. That being said, if you are looking to support your child with Maths this half term, you may wish to do activities such as numbots, practise number formation (and getting them the correct way around), play board games, spot numbers around shops, count door signs so they get confident in counting in 2s or playing games on topmarks.

Physical Development

Children will have their PE sessions on Mondays and Thursdays. Through invasion games such as football, the children will improve their ability to move fluently changing speed and direction. They will continue to develop key fundamental movement skills, both with and without a ball, moving in a safe way. The children develop basic ball control, experiment with different types of sending and receiving, and show some success when aiming at a target. In gymnastics on the other day of the week the children nwill learn and develop fundamental movement skills. These skills increase a child's confidence and competence and include travelling, balancing, rolling, and jumping. They will explore and form simple sequences of different actions, moving safely, changing direction and speed.

PSHE

In PSHE this half term, the children will be working their way through our Protective Behaviours units. In these lessons, the children will be discussing emotions and linking them with their understanding of zones of regulation. The children will then dive deeper into each emotion and discuss their 'early warning signs' which will help them recognise what they may feel like or spot a friend who may be feeling nervous or angry etc and consider how they differ. The children will then be taught the formal terminology for body parts to ensure that if anything did happen (hopefully not), they would be able to articulate this clearly and in a way that would ensure they could be understood. Following this, the children will then be given an opportunity to discuss adults and people around them who they trust and would feel happy to talk to if they felt unhappy, unsafe or scared. By talking through trusted adults with the children, the children understand that there is always somebody who will listen to them and to help them feel safe regardless of where they are. If you have any questions about PSHE this half term, please do come and speak to me.

Topic

This half term we are focusing on Geography and will be exploring 'What is it like here'. In this unit, the children will learn how to features on an aerial photograph of the school and know the name of the country and village, town or city in which they live. Following this, the children will make a map of the classroom with four key features, using objects to represent the distance and direction of features in the classroom. The children will continue to explore aerial view maps of the locality and will discuss ideas as to how to improve the school through surveys.

Religious Education

This term, the children will be exploring the unit 'Creation'. The children will discuss what kind of person and traits they believe a creator of the world may hold and why. The children will act out the Bible's creation story, before discussing what Christians may do to say thank you for the wonderful world that they live in. Following this the children will discuss what they find fascinating about the world and will share some of their own big questions about the world.

Science

In science this half term we are starting off focusing on the children themselves. The children will learn how to identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body and say which part of the body is associated with each sense. Each week, the children will put each sense to the test, exploring it in depth as they experiment with how each sense works.

Art, Design and Music

This half term we are creating developing our confidence and skill in mixing colours and making marks. The children will create swatches if secondary colours and will exploring making variations in colour. The children will explore making large and small partners and will learn about the artist Shelly Hehenberger before creating their very own art inspired by her works.

Helping at home

We always appreciate any help you can give in supporting your child's learning. Here are some of the ways you can help:

- Asking your child about their day and sharing news about the things they have done.
- Listening to your child read or sharing books together.
- Asking questions about the stories you share, encouraging children to make inferences based on the character's actions, asking them to retell you the story in the right order and asking them to predict what might happen next (you will also find comprehension ideas that you can find in the book marks in and with your child's reading diary that you can use).
- Practice their pre cursive handwriting.
- Counting out money.
- Asking them to tell you the time.
- Practice counting in 2s, 5s and 10s – there are some lovely songs you can find online or you can use door numbers on a walk.
- Help them practice their weekly spellings. Encourage them to find strategies that might help them to remember tricky spellings. There will also be some ideas to support you with this on the spelling sheets.
- Support them with their homework. If they are finding something tricky, encourage them to reflect on their week's learning and use physical objects to support their working and understanding.