



# Welcome to Year 1.



A very warm welcome to Year 1 from Mrs Haswell and Mrs Patel. Should you wish to contact us please email [khaswell@reddings.herts.sch.uk](mailto:khaswell@reddings.herts.sch.uk) and [mpatel@reddings.herts.sch.uk](mailto:mpatel@reddings.herts.sch.uk) and we will get back to you as soon as we can. You can also make an appointment to speak with us over the phone by calling the school office.

This term is the beginning of the transition period from Early Years to the Year 1 curriculum and your children are all starting to adjust to the changes very well. Your children will begin to move gently towards a more structured and less play-based curriculum by the end of the term, however, active and engaging learning is key to making good progress and will be a priority throughout the year.

Mondays and Tuesdays are Mrs Patel's teaching days and Wednesday to Friday are Mrs Haswell's. Mrs Johnson, our Teaching Assistant, is in class all day, every day.

Your children will continue to learn outside the classroom and will have lots of opportunities to learn through play, especially in this first term.

Each morning your children are shown the daily timetable of activities and begin their day with phonics. English and Maths then follow, with break time in between. After lunch the children will have an afternoon session of either Art, Science, History, Geography, RE, PE, Music, Computing or Jigsaw. There is also time for children to learn and play in the outdoor area and initially they will be developing fine and gross motor skills, retelling stories revisiting prior learning during these sessions.

As you can see, we are very busy learners in Year 1!

## English

We will be developing our reading and writing skills through daily phonics lessons and by studying different books and texts over the term. We begin with Tuesday—a book by David Wiesner. The focus areas for English over the term will be to secure letter formation, the use of spaces between words and forming sentences verbally and in written form.

## Maths

The units we will be covering are; positional and directional language, counting and comparing numbers, estimating and ordering numbers, addition and subtraction, problem solving, doubling and halving, investigating odd and even numbers and naming and identifying properties of 2D and 3D shapes. At home, please support your children with learning to count, add one more and take one away from a number and to count in steps of 2, 5 and 10.

## History

In history lessons we will be looking at and comparing changes within our own living memory and using this to discover aspects of change in national life.

## Geography

We will be learning to name, locate and identify characteristics of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom. We will use basic geographical vocabulary and will be creating our own maps.

**Science** The topics we will be looking at consist of animals including humans and plants. We will work on identifying, comparing and grouping using our scientific knowledge

## **Computing:**

Initially we will learn the skills we need to be able to log onto our computers and use a mouse correctly. We will use technology to create, organise, store, manipulate and retrieve digital content and learn use technology safely and respectfully.

## **RE**

We will be learning about the meaning of harvest and harvest around the world. After half term we will be learning about the Christian festival of Christmas.

## **Music**

In Music children will learn to use their voices expressively and creatively speaking chants and rhymes. They will play tuned and untuned instruments too. Children will be developing their listening and appraising skills over the Autumn term.

## **DT: Food**

We will be designing, making and evaluating our own fruit kebabs. The children will learn the processes of researching, designing, creating and evaluating a product.

## **Art: Portraits**

We will be learning to mix colours and to draw in proportion when creating our own self portraits. These will be displayed in our classroom for everyone to see.

## **PE**

In PE lessons children will develop their ball skills including throwing and catching and they will also be focusing on dance during the second half term.

## **Home Learning**

Reading—Regular reading is essential in order to ensure your child has many opportunities to rehearse and secure phonics learning. If you could aim to read with your child 4 or 5 times a week, this will ensure they have lots of practice and reinforcement and help to improve their confidence too. When reading a book with your child, ask them some questions about what they are reading, talk about the pictures with them and try getting them to retell you the story, including their favourite parts!

Some questions you might ask are :

What happens at the beginning of the story?

How do you think character X is feeling and why?

What does ..... (a word from the text) mean?

What do you think might happen next in the story?

## **Ready to Learn**

All children need indoor shoes and reading books and in school every day.

It is important they are also at school on time.

PE kit should be worn to school on a Thursday.

Please ensure your children also have a water bottle in school every day.