

# Autumn Term 2021

## Class 1 Newsletter



Dear Parents,

First of all, a warm welcome to Class 1. I hope that you had a lovely summer holiday. I am absolutely delighted to have the children all back in school safe and sound and we can hopefully offer our children and our families a fantastic year with lots of exciting events for us all to get involved in! The children were all smiles on our first couple of days back to school and they seem as eager as we are to get going! This newsletter will tell you what the children will be learning this term in Class 1. I hope you find it informative and helpful.

### Topic

The children are really excited about our new topic 'Moon Zoom'. During this topic they will be exploring an 'alien crash site' and discussing and investigating what could have happened and why they think that! The children will also find out more about planets, star, using photographs from space to identify features and learn about the history of space travel. It is important that the children learn about key figures from history and in this topic we will be finding out about Neil Armstrong and his trip to the moon. In Design and Technology the children will be designing and making their own moon buggy and in art the children will be using colour and texture to create textured pictures and masks.

### Literacy

As a school, we have changed the way that we teach the children writing. We are using some new and exciting texts and following Jane Considine's 'The Write Stuff'. There will be more information on this to follow. Some of the texts that Class 1 will be using are The Train Ride, The Way Back Home and creating an information leaflet too. During these units, the children are taught to learn and use lots of new vocabulary and our focus will be using these in sentences using full stops, capital letters and word spaces. We will send you more information on this shortly. In Reading, the children will be learning how to make predictions, retell stories or parts of stories that they know and answering questions about texts that they have read. After half term, the children will be coming home with a set of spellings for them to learn. The spellings will come home on a Friday and they will be tested on them the following Thursday. These words could be linked to the spelling pattern we are learning that week, phonics sounds that the children are learning or they will be taken from the Year 1 Common Exception Word list. Every day, the children will have a phonics lesson where they will revise previous sounds learnt, learn new sounds and

learn how to use these sounds in words. During the week, the children will also practise their handwriting, ensuring that they form their letters correctly, they are of a consistent size and they are writing in the correct place on the line.

On a Thursday, the children will be receiving a Music lesson from Rock-It. This is a company that comes into school to work with the children teaching them as a whole class. It is an amazing lesson for the children where they learn to play instruments such as glockenspiels, keyboards and steel pans. The children will learn to play as a whole class keeping in time with the music and each other learning about rhythm, tempo and beat.

### Numeracy

Throughout this half term, the children will be practicing their numbers to 20 and will begin to learn numbers beyond. We will also focus on writing these numbers, ensuring that numbers are formed correctly. They will be practicing counting forwards and backwards and will begin to understand addition and subtraction both mentally and by drawing their calculations or working out. They will also be solving problems using objects and pictures and will be exploring the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. To help at home, you could practice counting forwards and backwards with your child.

### Science

During this term, our Science topics are The Body and Materials. In our materials topic, the children will be learning how to compare and contrast different materials and suggesting their own ideas on their suitability for a job. The children will also be learning how to record what they find out from whole class experiments and offering their own ideas on how we could find things out. When learning about the body, the children will begin to recognise the parts of the body and they will also begin to explore the five senses.

### PE

The children will take part in PE twice a week on a Monday and a Thursday. The children will need to come to school in their PE kit as they did last year. On a Monday the children will be outside for PE completing Games activities and on a Thursday, the children will be focusing on Dance. Please let me know if your child is unable to take part in PE either by telling me in the morning or emailing me. Please could you ensure that all the children's clothes and pumps have their name in. The children will

also need to be able to take their own earrings out if they have them pierced or not wear earrings on a Monday and Thursday.

### Reading and Homework

Your child will be reading at least once a week in school. Please ensure that your child has their reading book in school everyday. Please use the reading record to let me know how your child is reading at home. The comments that you make are often used as starting points for myself and Mrs Bould discussing any difficulties, parts of the stories the children enjoyed or discussions that you may have had with them. Also, if you have any queries or concerns about your child's reading, please write it in their reading diary or send me an email and we can work together on this.

Each Friday the children will be given a piece of Literacy or Numeracy homework. Please support the children to complete this at home. If there are any problems with the homework, please do not hesitate to contact me.

On a Friday, I would like the children to be able to take part in Show and Tell in the class. This is an opportunity for the children to bring in medals, certificates, leaflets or mementoes from special days out. If appropriate these may be able to be shared in Gold Assembly also. If you have photographs that you would like to share with the class - you could email me these to share.

### Reminder

It is very important that the children drink plenty of water during the day. Therefore, I ask for the children to bring a fresh bottle of water in. Sometimes, we can have little spills, therefore the children cannot have squash or fizzy drinks in the classroom. Please could you also make sure that your child's water bottle is stored away from their reading book on the way to school as this can result in water damaged books.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me. The best way to contact me is via email. My email is [staff15@croft.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:staff15@croft.staffs.sch.uk) but you can also contact me before and after school on the school phone. I am also available on the door in a morning before school.

I look forward to working with you all this year to ensure that the children have a fabulous year!

Mrs Sarah Richards