

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you have had a lovely summer holiday and are all ready for a great new year in Hawthorns. We can't believe that the first week has already passed. It has been lovely to see the children enjoying being with their friends, learning the new routines and settling into school life again so independently and confidently.

In Hawthorn class this year I, Mrs Jacob, will be teaching from Monday to Thursday and Miss Chauhan will be teaching on a Friday. On Tuesday afternoons, when I have PPA, Mrs Hill will be teaching and we are lucky to have Mrs Quick in class everyday.

In English we will be reading fiction, non-fiction and poetry books, creating our own pieces of writing focusing on the correct formation of letters using the Little Wandle ditti's taught in Chestnuts and focusing on using our phonics to help us spell words with greater independence. In year 1 we encourage the children to be working independently during some sessions so it's essential for them to be confident in identifying graphemes on 'grow the code'.



We will be revisiting and continuing to follow the Little wandle phonics scheme daily. You will be informed about what graphemes (2 or 3 letters making one sound) we have learnt each week, for you to continue to practise at home as a flashcard and in words. Children will be expected to read their books/e-books **at least 4 times every week**, and record this in their reading journals, to enable them to build their confidence, fluency and comprehension of each text, and develop a love for reading. Each week they achieve this target they will earn a certificate presented to them during our whole school achievement assembly at the end of every week. They will also bring home a book for pleasure, which they have chosen from our reading corner for you to read and share with them. We would like to invite you to join us for a phonic workshop on Tuesday 13th October at 2.15pm to share with you the year 1 expectations in English.

During the first couple of weeks we will be checking children's spelling of the common exception words in class and highlighting the ones your child knows on a dinosaur sheet which will then be put in their homework folders. This will allow you to know which words your child needs to learn to read and write by the end of year one and will allow you time to practise at home, when you can, through games like pairs, hide and seek finding and reading words etc. We will be re-assessing in school and then updating the highlighted words each term. In Year 1 children are encouraged to be independent writers so need to be confident to use graphemes taught in words and daily reading really helps develop this skill.

In Maths we will start by looking at place value, addition and subtraction within 10 and number bonds (two numbers added together to make all numbers from 2-10). Regular practice of these early number skills develops a strong understanding of concepts and allows children to confidently apply what they know to solve problems. Remember you are also able to use Numbots website too, to practise your maths skills at home, moving on to using Times table rock stars later in the year, and will again earn certificates as you progress through each story level. It is important to also work on completing the challenge section as this is where the fluency of the early skills develops. If you have forgotten your passwords, please let me know via year1@hatherleigh-pri.devon.sch.uk and I will try and respond as soon as possible. We will be running a maths workshop on Thursday 22nd October in the afternoon at about 2.15pm. (further details will be sent out nearer the time)



In Science we are going to be learning about Animals including humans, thinking about our bodies, how we grow and how we use our senses, as well as describing and comparing a variety of animals. We will be carrying out various experiments using our senses so if your child has any allergies please can you inform the office. We will also be learning about the seasons Autumn and Winter.

This term in History we will be learning about, How am I making history? Please could you either send in/email, a couple of photos of special events in your child's life so far, for example, the day they were born, got their first pet, sibling was born etc, as each child will be making their own timeline. In Geography, our topic is, Where in the world are we? learning how to use and draw maps.

This year in PE we will be continuing to follow the 'Getset4PE' programme. Please can you ensure that your child has named trainers or plimsolls in school every day. We will be changing for longer PE sessions, so they will need to have a white t-shirt and black or blue shorts which will stay in school. **Please can we remind you to make sure all clothing, drinks bottle, lunch boxes etc are all clearly named.** We are hoping to use the woodland area for some of our learning so it would be really useful if you have a spare pair of wellies if you could send them in with your child to stay in school.



On Wednesday afternoons we will be exploring many different skills in our Creative Wednesday sessions, from drawing, painting, textiles, clay and collage, creating amazing end products which I will try and keep updated on our class page of the website for you to share with your child.

Every Thursday, we will be sending home a weekly maths activity linked to the maths topic we are teaching in class, which we would like returned to school by the **following Tuesday please**. We will also send home graphemes taught in school each week so that you can practice them regularly, to help your child become confident in recognising the graphemes as flash cards and in words. We also need to be able to apply them within spellings.

We would like to invite you to a 'meet the teacher' meeting on Monday 21st September at 2.40pm. This is an opportunity for us to talk through what will be happening in year 1 and allow us to meet you all and answer any questions you may have.

In the meantime, if you need to contact us, please feel free to use year1@hatherleigh-pri.devon.sch.uk or admin@hatherleigh-pri.devon.sch.uk and we will try to reply as soon as we can.

We have had an excellent start back to school and are really looking forward to an exciting term ahead.



Looking forward to meeting you on Monday 21st September at 2.40pm. for 'meet the teacher meeting.'

Mrs Jacob, Miss Chauhan and Mrs Quick.

Dates for your diary

Monday 21st September - Meet the Teacher meeting 2.40pm

Tuesday 13th October - Phonic workshop at 2.15pm

Thursday 22nd October - Maths workshop 2.15pm.