



# MELLING PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Y1 Newsletter – Autumn Term 2024 – welcome back everyone!

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Welcome to Year 1!

There are lots of lovely staff the children will be taught by throughout the year:

The class teacher is Mrs Grainger (full-time) who will be supported by both Mrs Rogan and Miss Scott each morning, and then Mrs Rogan will be with us of an afternoon too. As always Mr Millington comes in to teach P.E (once a week, the other session is taught by Mrs Grainger) and we have Mrs Randall teaching music/ PHSE (once a week).

We are really looking forward to our new term and we know the children are just as excited.

We have lots of work to cover this year but here are some of the main topics and skills we will be covering in different subjects this Autumn Term:

### English / Phonics

- lots of letter formation – it is REALLY IMPORTANT to start letters from the right place, write them in the correct direction, the correct size and on the line
- reading daily to develop fluency, expression and to practise our sounding out skills and to practise the common words (in class most children read three times a week from the reading scheme, Oxford Owl (books will be set weekly) and read daily in the phonics lesson)
- spelling daily in our writing and in our daily phonics lessons (this will include CVC consonant-vowel-consonant words e.g. cat, CVCC words e.g. band and CCVC WORDS e.g. frog and words containing Set 2 & 3 speed sounds, as on the sounds sheet in the Y1 pack and website)
- writing based on fiction (such as stories and poems) and on non-fiction (such as lists and letters) concentrating on writing in complete sentences with capital letters and full-stops, whilst using a range of vocabulary
- exploring lots of exciting stories, both during literacy lessons and when we share books twice a day at carpet time

### Numeracy

- practising the correct formation of numbers
- place value within 10; sorting objecting in size; grouping, greater/less than; comparison; number lines
- addition and subtraction within 10; parts and wholes; number sentences; fact families; number bonds within 10; addition and subtraction problems
- number bonds to 10, e.g. 5+5, 6+4, 3+7 so that we can recall them instantly (children have a number bonds passport that they complete and receive certificates)
- working using number lines counting both forwards and backwards
- geometry; 2-d shape, including circle, rectangle, triangle, square, pentagon, hexagon and octagon

### Science

- Plants and Animals, Including Humans
- Seasonal Change

### D.T.

- Preparing Fruit and Vegetables – Pizzas and Smoothies
- making models with construction equipment e.g. Lego, Duplo, polydron, blocks etc.

### History

- Why do we celebrate Bonfire Night?
- Louis Braille
- My Lifetime – How have I changed?

### Geography

- Wonderful Weather

### Computing

- Looking at algorithms
- Predicting outcomes of programmes
- Debugging systems

### R.E

- Who do Christians say made the world?
- Why does Christmas matter to Christians?

### Music

- Listen and appraise a piece of music
  - Musical activities
  - Performing (both singing and playing)
- This is the format for several musical units during the year, e.g. this term one of the units is hip-hop.

We will also be learning and performing lots of songs for our Christmas concert in December.

### Art

- Drawing skills
- Using colour, e.g. colour mixing with paints
- Self-portraits
- Christmas craft

### PE

- Games (kicking – football)
- Dance (Animals) as well as Christmas performance

### Reading

Children will read daily in school as part of Read Write Inc phonics activities and will also read books from the reading scheme at home. The other two reads are from the Richer Read books (which will also be sent home once a week and can be read lots of times) and the third read is through Oxford Owl online, this will link with the book they are reading in class. This helps deepen their understanding and helps with fluency and speed. You will also have access to Oxford Reading Buddy if your child wishes to do any additional reading at home. The books follow alongside their current reading books, just check their level and you can choose from 100's of books.

Your child will have a set reading day, please return their book on their set day to be changed as well as to read in class with a member of staff. If your child comes home with a book previously read, this will be in line with their reading level which is calculated through phonics assessments every half term.

Please listen to your child read at home a minimum 3 times a week, sign and clearly date their reading record and send the book and record back into school on their specific reading day. Listening to your child read is a vital part of their learning and progression. Anything additional they read to a grown-up can also be documented in their record, i.e. comics, own reading books etc. All reads count! The more reads they achieve the more prizes they can earn. For every 50 reads their name goes into a box and at the end of the school year one lucky name is pulled out of the box and that chosen child will win a Kindle.

Not only listening to your child read is important, but it is just as important to read to your child too. This will open up the creative reading aspect, bringing characters to life with voices, or slowing/ speeding up depending on punctuation.

### Homework

Homework will be set Tuesday to Monday. The homework that is set is designed to follow up and reinforce school work learnt in the previous week. Some weeks it may be paper based if related to topic work. But all other homework will be accessed online. Except for the spellings, these will be sent home in the back of their spelling book, for it to be returned each Monday to complete the spelling test in the front of the book so you can see their scores.

If you are concerned at all about your child's reading or homework please do not hesitate to contact me so that any issues can be discussed at the earliest opportunity.

### P.E. Kits

We will do P.E. twice a week so a full school P.E. kit should be worn to school on both days. Please no branded sportswear i.e. Nike shorts etc. They must have the pale blue P.E top, navy shorts or jogging bottoms and a navy cardigan, jumper or hoody (hoody only to be worn on P.E days only).

Please ensure that your child has an additional warm kit (for winter time) such as hat and gloves or long pants if normally in shorts, but please don't worry as, on very cold days, we will be in the hall for P.E. lessons.

This term, P.E. days are Tuesday after lunch with Mr Millington and Thursday before break with Mrs Grainger. There may be the odd week when the Thursday session may not happen but this will not impact their learning.

### Autumn Term Trips and Special Days

Once we have confirmation of trips and special days, a letter will be sent home at the earliest convenience.

### Additional Information

If you are unsure on something, please refer to the class page first, as any information or minor changes will be updated directly on the class page. We are trying to be as eco-friendly as possible and we are trying to limit the

amount of printing and paper that is sent out. We hope you can appreciate this. If there is something that you cannot locate please drop me an email. \*

Children can have fruit (or an alternative HEALTHY snack) for morning break (snack time is 10.15) but they are also encouraged to bring in a healthy snack for the afternoon. Please no crisps or chocolate for afternoon snacks. A clearly named water bottle must also be sent in - it can be topped up if necessary in class – and taken home daily for washing.

In Year 1 we give out house points, gold stars, and golden texts to the children for good behaviour, hard work, being an excellent friend etc... so ask your child about house points and gold stars. Children can also get their name in lights in class, this is part of our Melling Reward system, it is based around the core value of BE THE BEST THAT YOU CAN BE, and we encourage children throughout the day to BE READY, BE RESPECTFUL, BE SAFE and BE KIND.

Friday is a day of celebration, as we have Star of the Week (Spider Bear) and ROAR to go home with 2 very special children each week. As it is a day of celebration we use this day for 'show and tell' of what ROAR or Spider Bear have been up too. So, if your child has achieved anything outside of school or has done something special they can bring it in to talk to the children about it. We would also love to see any pictures that you take of any special activities happening, as well as what ROAR and Spider Bear get up too over the weekend. Please email them into us and we will proudly display them on our website. Obviously, we understand not everyone wants that and that is perfectly fine. If you just want the images to be discussed in class, please just mention it in the email. Please remember to send ROAR and Spider Bear back in on the following Monday so they can keep an eye on the children in class, to see who they want to go home with the following week.

### Uniform Policy

Please remember that, for your child's safety, no jewellery except small stud earrings can be worn in school.

No nail varnish/ false nails should be worn during term times.

All shoulder length hair must be tied back, even on mufti days (own clothes). Only school colours are to be worn in hair (navy and pale blue).

Please ensure ALL SCHOOL UNIFORM IS CLEARLY LABELLED; SHOES, WELLIES AND COATS INCLUDED. As you can imagine 30+ jumpers/ cardigans all look the same without labels!

Your child no longer needs wellies and waterproofs. When they are needed for Forest school, you will be informed in advance.

We know children love to bring toys and teddies from home, but we kindly ask that these remain with the grownup dropping them off. We cannot be held responsible if anything should happen to them during the school day. Plus, we wouldn't want them to be a distraction in the classroom as this is the case when they are so young. If it is an item for 'Show and Tell' on a Friday, please make sure they pass it to an adult in class.

If your child is going home with a parent of another child or someone who wouldn't normally collect them, please inform the office as soon as possible, the class email cannot always be checked during the day. If someone does come to collect and we do not have confirmation, please do not be alarmed if we call the contacts listed for your child. This is part of our procedure.

Many thanks, in anticipation of your cooperation with all school and class routines and for your assistance with reading and homework. We know moving from Reception to Year 1 can be a big jump not just for the children but the parents and carers as well. Your support is always greatly appreciated and once again, should you have any concerns, please come into school to discuss them as soon as possible, or please drop me an email so that we can all do the very best for the children.

\*Emails will only be replied to during working hours 8am to 5.30pm Monday to Friday (term time), anything before/ after will be responded to at the nearest opportunity. If anything is urgent, please call the office.

Here's to a successful year!

Mrs Grainger and the Y1 team