



Year 1
Bushmead Primary School

Spring 1 2025

Good Morning Parents and Carers,

Our Value for January is Independence.

Our well-being theme this half term is Yoga and Meditation.

General Information

Welcome back to school for a new term. We hope everyone had a good break and we all wish you a very Happy New Year!

This half term our main topic title is 'Materials and Caring for the Earth'.

In English we focus on the Traditional Tales of Cinderella and Jack and the Beanstalk, producing a range of written work including character profiles, invitations, wanted posters and informal letters. We are hoping to hold a Traditional Tale Dress up Day towards the end of this topic (more details to follow nearer the time). We will end the half term looking at some rhymes and poems linked to our topic.

Reading and phonics are key areas of the Year 1 curriculum. Little Wandle is fully embedded in our work with the children having a daily phonics lesson, where they are busy learning new phase 5 graphemes and alternative pronunciations. Within their phonics homework folders the children have their own copy of the Phase 5 Grow the code chart which will help support them with our new learning. The children also take part in explicit reading sessions in a group, three times a week with an adult. You can access the books the children are reading in these sessions via the ECollins Library at home and we encourage that this forms part of your home reading alongside books sent home. Fluency and comprehension are also key areas that we are working on developing alongside phonic awareness.

Funky Phonics after school club

We hope the children from Oak who attended the Funky Phonics club last half term enjoyed it. This half term will be Hazel's turn with Maple having the same opportunity in Spring 2. Parents and carers from Hazel will have received information inviting them to sign up for this club which will be starting for 4 sessions on Thursday 16th January. We hope Hazel children will be able to join us!

Homework

The expectations for homework this half term remain the same:

Reading

We expect all children to be reading a minimum of three times a week at home, ideally five times, please then sign and add comments to your child's reading record. The reading record and books should come to and from school every day. Children's reading records will continue to be checked on a Friday and two new reading books sent home on this day. Your support with regular reading at home is vital and makes a huge difference to your children. It is expected that the children will be reading their books several times to help develop their confidence, fluency and comprehension. Please remember that you also have access to the ECollins books that the children read in school with these updated weekly too. Children will continue to be rewarded by 'earning' house points and raffle tickets depending on the number of times that they have read at home each week, with a prize draw at the end of each half term.

Phonics

Each week phonics sounds are taught. Children are then given graphemes and words to practise and an activity to help them apply their learning. Phonics tasks are shared each Friday in your child's phonics homework folder.

Maths

Children are given weekly maths practice which is set as a homework task on MyMaths.

All children are expected to complete these weekly pieces of homework which are set each Friday and due the following Friday. Teachers have been asked to follow up if homework is not being done. If completing work online is an issue or your child is having trouble accessing or completing the tasks, please speak to your child's class teacher so we can assist you.

Please ensure you continue to regularly check Class Dojo, as this is a key method of us communicating messages to you.

Dates and Events

Monday 6th January – INSET day (staff only)

Tuesday 7th January – Children return to school

Well-being Week 20th - 24th January which includes 'Blue Monday' where children are invited to wear 'bright clothes' to school (non-uniform)

17th - 21st February - Half term

Monday 24th February - Spring 2 term starts

Curriculum Overview

English

- ★ To apply phonic knowledge and skills as the route to decode words.
- ★ To accurately read aloud books that are consistent with their developing phonic knowledge.
- ★ To check the text makes sense to them as they read and correct inaccurate reading.
- ★ To re-read books to build up their fluency and confidence in word reading.

- ★ To participate in discussions about what is read to them, explaining clearly their understanding, making predictions based on what has been read and recalling events.
- ★ To develop vocabulary, linking new word meanings to those that are already known.
- ★ To compose sentences orally before writing, using finger spaces between words and capital letters and full stops.
- ★ To read and spell common exception ('tricky') words.
- ★ To write from memory simple sentences dictated by the teacher.
- ★ To read and spell words with the suffixes 'ed' and 'ing' and also learn about plural words using the suffixes 's' and 'es'.
- ★ To become very familiar with key stories, fairy stories and traditional tales, retelling them and considering their characteristics.
- ★ To write for different purposes.

Maths

- ★ To explore counting, comparing and ordering numbers to 20 and the value of tens and ones.
- ★ To explore addition, looking at fact families, counting on and number bonds within 20.
- ★ To explore doubles and near doubles.
- ★ To explore subtraction within 20 by counting back, using number bond knowledge and finding the difference.
- ★ To explore missing number problems.

Science

- ★ To distinguish between an object and the material it is made from.
- ★ To identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water and rock.
- ★ To describe the simple physical properties of a range of materials.
- ★ To compare and group together a variety of everyday materials on the basis of their simple physical properties.
- ★ To compare the suitability of a variety of everyday materials.
- ★ To explore changing shapes of some objects.
- ★ To use simple scientific language to talk about what we have found out and be encouraged to ask and answer questions.

Art and Design

- ★ To mark make and experiment with shapes and colour through drawings related to topic areas.

Computing

- ★ To sort items by different criteria by using 'grouping' activities in Purple Mash.
- ★ To look at how pictograms can be used to represent data.
- ★ To collect data and represent results on the computer in a pictogram.

Design and Technology

- ★ To explore structures, how they can be made stronger, stiffer and more stable (shaping and joining skills).
- ★ Explore and evaluate ideas and models.

Geography

- ★ To identify seasonal and daily weather patterns in the UK.
- ★ To use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of the school grounds.

Music -

- ★ To explore different styles of music.
- ★ To learn new songs linked to our topics using their voices expressively and creatively.
- ★ To continue to develop and understand the concepts of pulse and rhythm through songs, chants and rhymes, music games and activities.

PE -

- ★ Dance (Heroes) - To perform a range of movements which demonstrate different superhero characters.
- ★ To control and coordinate their bodies to perform a sequence of movements, including a balance (freeze position).
- ★ To take part in a range of physical activities which promote health and well being.

PSHE & RSHE

- ★ To learn what constitutes, and how to maintain, a healthy lifestyle including the benefits of physical activity, rest, healthy eating and dental health.
- ★ To think about themselves, to learn from their experiences, to recognise and celebrate their strengths and set simple but challenging goals.
- ★ To recognise what they like and dislike, how to make real, informed choices that improve their physical and emotional health, to recognise that choices can have good and not so good consequences.
- ★ To learn about good and not so good feelings, a vocabulary to describe their feelings to others and simple strategies for managing feelings.

RE

- ★ To think about how we can care for the world, identifying our own and others ideas.
- ★ To learn about what religions say about how the earth should be treated.
- ★ To understand that creation stories are told to explain the mystery of the natural world.

The Year 1 Team

Sarah Anderson, Sian Marks, Saima Rahman and Daisy Padgett

Our Vision:

At Bushmead, children are empowered to be active, confident learners where they are inspired to be creative and excel.

