

GRIMSARGH ST.MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Monday 14th September 2020

Dear Parents and Children,

It has been lovely welcoming the children back to school and getting them settled into Year One. They have done extremely well and they have already been working hard. For this term, we have Mrs Costas-Walker and Miss Gresty assisting in Year One and working with the children alongside myself.

Our whole school curriculum topic for Autumn term is 'Light up the World' and we will be concentrating on settling the children back into school life through lots of discussion, communication and PSHE work. Our topic work will focus on exploring our planet, learning all about hot and cold areas of the world and the seven continents. In Science, the children will be learning all about different animals from different climates and we will be investigating and researching animal habitats and animal groups. Mrs Coulston will lead our Art and Design topics and the children will be using different techniques such as, drawing, painting and collage. The children will also explore collage techniques using symmetry and silhouette printing. Our Year One curriculum overview will soon be available on the school website.

In RE, we will focus on harvest to begin with and how we can help others during harvest time. Throughout the harvest topic we will also discover how other faiths celebrate harvest. We will also learn about Creation and this will be linked to our 'Light up the World' topic title as the children will discover the many different ways God made the world beautiful and how we can make sure we respect our planet and look after it. In the lead up to Christmas, we will learn about the Christmas story and why it is so important to celebrate Christmas in our Christian faith.

Year One have their PE lessons on a Tuesday and a Thursday of each week so please ensure that your child comes into school on these days dressed in their full PE kit. In the second half of Autumn term, we will have Michael from the PNE Community team who will lead one PE session a week. We also learn Yoga in Year One and we use the Cosmic Yoga sessions which can be easily accessed via YouTube.

Homework is usually sent in a homework book but with current restrictions, there will be online activities set via Mathletics, Seesaw and Purple Mash. These passwords will be sent out in your child's reading record by Friday the 18th September and the children will be shown how to log on in class so hopefully they can show you at home. This online access will also assist in the case of any future bubble or school closures. If any parent is having trouble logging in or accessing these websites, please make me aware and I can try to assist via email. Mrs Bailey will be sending communication to parents this week with regards to our new whole school homework schedule.

'Inspiring, believing and achieving in our loving Christian Community'

Reading will be an important part of homework every week. The children should continue to read to you for a short period each day and a short comment or signature jotted in the diary. It is vital that you write in your child's homework diary each evening so we can monitor who is reading at home and change their reading book accordingly. We will start the term by sending one Oxford Reading Tree book home at the correct book band level and we will soon send another weekly phonics book home to further support the children's phonetic knowledge. For this half term each child will read at least twice a week, to an adult, in school. Once during guided reading, using a previously unseen text and once sharing their current reading book and responding to questions about it. After half term, some children who consistently read at home and are progressing well, will read once in guided reading with Mrs Coupe and we will change their book weekly. Reading is monitored in school and we are always reading in Year One through our Literacy topics, curriculum and story time. I cannot express how important it is that we have your support with reading this year so we can make sure the children become confident readers in preparation for their phonics screening in June 2021 and for their transition to Year Two.

If you have any questions or concerns, either jot a note in your son/daughter's homework diary or phone school or leave a message.

I look forward to working alongside you to nurture and encourage your children,

Many thanks,
H Coupe

