



CURRICULUM NOTES - 2016 / 2017 YEAR 1

We would like to wish you and your children a very warm welcome to 1CA and 1GE and we are looking forward to a happy and successful year ahead. We hope you have had a restful and enjoyable Summer break and that you have been looking forward to the year ahead too.

The work that your child will be doing in Year 1 will naturally become a little more structured, but will always be set at an appropriate level for your child. Mornings will be mainly reserved for Literacy and Numeracy. There will be a twenty minute break when the children will be able to relax and get ready for some more work to follow. The children have 45 minutes outdoor play after lunch. Then the afternoon sessions will be filled with various topic activities.

Assemblies

On Mondays, Years 1 & 2 have a short assembly to establish a focus for the week.

On Wednesdays, the Year 1 pupils will have an assembly with the rest of Pre-Prep. The main focus of these assemblies will be RS (Religious Studies) and PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education).

On Fridays there is a Singing Practice and a 'Celebration Assembly'. During this assembly all the children in Pre-Prep get the opportunity to share examples of good work. Excellence achieved by the children will be acknowledged by certificates and by displaying their photos in the corridor by the lunch hall. We keep records to ensure we include all the children over the term.

Snack and Lunch

During the morning children are given a drink of milk or water and a piece of fruit to see them through to lunchtime. Water is always available throughout the day when children are thirsty. Children are encouraged to bring in their own water bottle, which should be clearly named. These bottles may only contain water and will be sent home daily to be cleaned and refilled. All children have school lunch, where a wide variety of food is available, including a daily vegetarian option and a salad bar. Kitchen staff, teachers and teaching assistants are all on hand throughout the lunch period to supervise and help the children. If your child has special dietary requirements please notify the school nurses in writing so that necessary arrangements can be made.

Kit

The children will need to bring their waterproof trousers and wellington boots to keep these at school. They will take them home at the end of each half term to be washed. As a part of their PE kit the children wear trainers. Mondays and Fridays will be PE/Games, and the children will need to be in their white PE kit with a tracksuit over the top in cold weather. Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled. On Monday and Friday mornings children should come dressed for PE which they may stay in all day.

Specialist Subjects

PE, Games, Music, French, Dance and Drama will be taught by specialist teachers while Literacy, Numeracy, Science, RS, PSHE, Geography, History, Art, ICT (Information and Communication Technology) and DT (Design and Technology) will be taught by the form teachers.

Literacy

During Literacy the children will be taught reading and spelling strategies and handwriting.

The children can select a reading book from our reading scheme to bring home; this can be changed at their own pace. This graded scheme contains a range of fiction and non-fiction texts and is aimed at consolidating the reading strategies your child is taught at school. The texts are appropriate for the child to be able to read fluently and hence develop a greater love of reading and better expression. There may be a rare occasion when the book chosen by your child to read independently at home could prove more challenging than usual. Please help him/her with the more difficult words by discussing the text and illustrations in the book.

The school reading scheme is only a small part of an individual's total reading, so please introduce your child to a variety of books outside school. Please encourage trips to your local library, as learning library skills is an invaluable life skill.

As of January, the children will be given spellings each week using the 'Look, Cover, Write, Check' method. These will become part of the daily morning routine. They will be reinforced through daily phonics and spelling teaching.

Hall Grove teaches the cursive style of handwriting. In Year 1 the children follow the Hemispheres Think Write program to enable them to form their letters with the leading lines and the correct sizing. It follows a hierarchical series of targets, enabling children to join their letters when ready.

Maths

In Maths, the Year 1 children learn to add and subtract to at least 50 and beyond. They learn to order, sequence and count to 100 and beyond. The children will learn about data handling, problem solving, time, measure, shape, space and movement. Above all they will be taught to develop effective mental strategies for adding and subtracting numbers.

Topics

We adopt a cross-curricular approach to our teaching and learning. The main topics that we cover in Year 1 are:

Autumn Term - Under the Sea & Celebrations

Spring - Dinosaurs & 'Far Off Lands'

Summer - Treasure & Animals

Arrival Times

The children need to be in class by 0830 each morning. Children arriving between 0815 and 0830 will be supervised by a member of the Pre-Prep teaching staff in their classroom. **Please note that for Health and Safety reasons children cannot be left unsupervised in corridors or classrooms before 0815.**

Throughout Year 1, we are aiming for the children to become more independent and would like them to be able to make their own way to their classrooms in the mornings. The Class Register is completed by 0900. If you arrive at school after 0900, please go to the school Reception office to inform the school secretary of your arrival so that your child can be registered. The children finish at 1520 and afternoon collection will be on the drive. Collection from after school clubs will also be from the drive.

Home Times

The procedure for going home at the end of the day is well established and it is very important for you to follow it and thus ensure the safety of your child. Please arrive by 1520 to collect your child. If you arrive earlier please park up at the A30 end of the drive (before the barrier) and wait until the time that children come out onto the drive before joining the queue of cars. Please do not park on yellow lines. You may park either at the top of the drive and walk down, or on the field side of the collection area, but not on yellow lines as this blocks sight lines of the road crossing. Children must be closely supervised at all times, and they are your responsibility once they have left their teachers. Extreme care is to be taken crossing the drive to parked cars, small children held firmly by the hand.

If your child is being picked up by somebody else, please write a note or a short letter to the teacher to explain this and say who will be picking up the child. If you need to make different arrangements during the day, please ring and let the school secretary know as soon as possible. Please ensure that your child is picked up promptly and notify the school if you think you are going to be unavoidably late.

TASC 360 sports education

This takes place in the portacabin at the bottom of the drive near the barrier. A teacher or a teaching assistant takes the children booked into TASC. If you wish your child to attend TASC please book them in online through 360 sports education.

SEND

Mrs Paula Leech co-ordinates special needs teaching and is the key point of contact for parents who wish to enquire about learning support for dyslexia or other related issues. Some children are on special programmes known as Individual Educational Plans which Mrs Leech helps in writing. She can be contacted by email at: p.leech@hallgrove.co.uk.

Parent Interviews & Appointments

Individual Parent Interviews will be held on Wednesday 5th & Thursday 6th October, when we will be able to tell you how your child has settled into Year 1 and discuss general progress.

Please do not hesitate to make an appointment or come to see us after school hours if you wish to discuss any issues concerning your child. Such meetings provide the teachers with invaluable information, especially now at the beginning of the school year when the children are in the process of settling down. However unimportant or trivial it may seem to adults, to the child it might be very important. We have a list of children going to clubs so this is not necessary.

We ask parents visiting school to sign in and out at the School Office at the front of the school. We also ask that if you need to pick up your child, drop them in late or return them, you do so via the School Office. This means that in case of fire or emergencies we are aware of all people in school.

It is a pleasure to meet you and your children. We are both looking forward to teaching them very much. We will do our best to make their time at Hall Grove in Year 1 as interesting, creative, pleasurable and fun as possible.

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