



CURRICULUM NOTES - 2020 / 2021 YEAR 1

We would like to wish you a very warm welcome to 1AE and 1ST. We are looking forward to a happy and successful year ahead. We hope you have had a restful 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. We will start the year with a similar approach to their time in Reception, with continuous provision focusing on a variety of areas of learning within the classroom and outside area. Mornings will be mainly reserved for English and Maths. There will be a 25-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

During this time of extra caution, we will be observing government guidance with regard to group sizes permitted to gather together. Our Assemblies will take place over 'Zoom' for the time being and will be less frequent. We will begin with our Celebration Assembly and add in a Year 1 and 2 Section Assembly when we can.

In line with the ethos of the school, we follow the Christian year whilst acknowledging other faiths. Each assembly ends with a period of quiet reflection.

Pre-Prep Assembly: the main focus of these assemblies will be RS (Religious Studies) and PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education).

'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 they 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 black coat, waterproof trousers and wellington boots to keep these at school. They will take them home as needed to be washed. As a part of their PE kit, the children wear trainers. Mondays and Thursdays will be PE/Games. Please ensure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled. For the first Half Term the children will need to come to school dressed in their PE kit which they will stay in for the day. After the Half Term break we will look to the children to start changing at school and will be in touch nearer the time.

Specialist Subjects

French, Music, Dance and PE/Games will be taught by specialist teachers while English, Maths, Science, RS, PSHE, Geography, History, Art, ICT (Information and Communication Technology) and DT (Design and Technology) will be taught by the form teachers. As we settle into our new routines this year, Specialist lessons will be taught observing social distancing guidance at the time.

English

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.

In a few weeks 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 – Ourselves, Under the Sea & Celebrations

Spring – Dinosaurs & Imaginary Lands

Summer – Treasure & Enchanted Woodlands

Arrival Times

Year 1's drop off time is between 0830-0845. Children who have siblings higher up the school can be dropped off at the eldest child's drop off time. There will be a member of Pre-Prep staff to supervise them until 0830.

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.

We 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.

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. 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 inform the class teacher who will be picking up your 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.

Learning Support

Hall Grove is a non-selective school and we welcome children of all learning abilities save those who need highly specialised intensive support. The Learning Support Team is Mrs Gilly Harris and Mrs Alexandra Moore. We believe that the strengths of every child should be celebrated, and it is understood that some may require specific tools or learning interventions at different stages of their journey through the school in order to achieve their best and become well rounded confident individuals. The Learning Support staff work closely with both class teachers and parents and we are committed to enabling every child to achieve his /her academic potential. Please contact Mrs Harris should you have any queries regarding learning support.

Parent Interviews & Appointments

Online individual Parent Interviews will be held on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th 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 for a phone call 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.

Home Learning

In the event your child's 'bubble' needs to isolate at home, we will provide learning resources, activities, and videos via 'See Saw', our online learning platform for this age group. We will also provide some live lessons via a video link on a regular basis. If your child is isolating due to another family member needing to isolate until the necessary tests come through, we can provide some simple activities to complete via 'See Saw' too. Your child's login details will be sent home in their book bag. Please set their account up as soon as you can.

We are all looking forward to teaching the children. We will do our best to make their time at Hall Grove in Year 1 as interesting, creative, pleasurable and fun as possible.

Kind Regards,

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