



Class 1 Termly Class Letter - Autumn Term 2023

Dear Parents,

We hope you will find the following information helpful for this term.

LITERACY

All lessons are based on the 'Power of Reading', a scheme which promotes an enriched literacy environment, where reading for pleasure is encouraged. A text is studied for a number of weeks, which increases the pupils' stamina in reading a book from start to finish. By studying a range of books each year in depth, pupils build up a rich vocabulary as well as a wealth of knowledge. A number of teaching approaches are used in lessons to help pupils access the learning including art, drama, videos, pictures, shared writing, gallery walks and story mapping.

The picture books we are going to use during the autumn term are beautifully illustrated, encouraging conversation, visual literacy and imaginative play.

Here We Are is a manual to life on Earth from the author to his son and offers an overview of Earth and a guide to living well. It emphasises the concepts of kindness, tolerance, environmental responsibility and diversity and gives us a tour through the land, the sea, the sky and ourselves.

Jabari Tries tells a beautiful story about Jabari, a young boy who is determined to invent a machine all by himself, that will fly right across his back garden. He consults books, finds out about inventors and inventions and makes careful plans but he just can't quite make it work. Then his dad suggests that partnering with his little sister Nika might help and together they produce a feat of engineering. Advice from dad about dealing with feelings of frustration plays an important part too.

Naughty Bus is a story told through close up photography. It is a magical book in which the hero is the bus itself.

Communication and language skills as well as reading and writing skills will be based around the following books:

Autumn 1
Here We Are

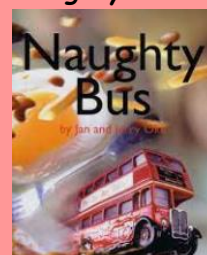


Autumn 2

Jabari Tries





Naughty Bus




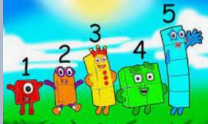



MATHS

Our maths lessons follow the 'White Rose Maths' scheme. This scheme of learning helps children develop a deep understanding of mathematical concepts and the ability to articulate their ideas using the appropriate mathematical language. In addition to White Rose Maths, we also use 'Active Maths'. This approach to teaching maths incorporates PE, making learning fun and engaging.

Maths learning will be based around these 'White Rose Maths' blocks:

Just Like Me Matching and sorting	It's me: 1,2,3 Representing 1,2,3 Composition of 1,2,3	It's me: 1,2,3 Geometry and spatial thinking Circles and triangles	Light and Dark Consolidating key skills (subitising, counting, number composition)	Light and Dark Shapes with 4 sides  
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Comparing size, mass and capacity Comparing amounts Exploring patterns 	Comparing 1,2,3. 	Positional language 	Representing numbers to 5 Composition of 4,5 One more, one less 	Time- Daily routines Night and Day 
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CREATIVE CURRICULUM

Understanding the World, Expressive arts and design




Pupils experience a whole school creative curriculum approach to learning. Children learn through two exciting themes each term to ensure they engage with a wide range of learning experiences and access the EYFS statutory framework.

In the first week of the school year, as part of our learning programme **Brainwave**, we will learn about our brain and how it works, how to look after it and how to improve our memory.

During the first half of the autumn term, as part of our topic **Home and Away**, we will be learning about **Oxford** and two of its twin cities, **Wroclaw** in Poland and **Leon** in Nicaragua. We will receive a special visit from the Ambassador of Nicaragua towards the end of September and this will give the children a chance to find out more about Nicaragua and ask lots of questions.

Our topic for the second half of the autumn term is **Electricity and Forces**.

The art and design lessons will be based around those two topics.

Brainwave (1 week learning programme) 	Home and Away Oxford, Wroclaw and Leon 	Electricity and Forces 
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Other Subjects:

PE	<p>During the autumn term, the reception children will develop their large motor skills through throwing and catching, jumping, running, hopping and skipping. They will also learn how to negotiate space successfully and develop their spatial awareness.</p> <p>Our PE lessons are on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. However, your child will need a full P.E. kit in school each day. Please ensure they have trainers to take part in outdoor PE. As the weather turns colder, they should have a PE jumper and joggers.</p>
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Home Learning:

Book of challenges	<p>Each Friday, starting from 15th September 2023, your child will bring home a challenge book, with a challenge to complete. The challenges incorporate different aspects of learning and are fun and engaging. Once each challenge is completed, please return the book to school by the following Friday.</p>
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Reading	<p>Your child will visit the school library once a week, on a Wednesday, and can borrow books. Please read to your child on a daily basis and talk together about the story, the illustrations, the characters and the key events in the book.</p> <p>Once we start our Phonics sessions, we will send home individual reading books, together with a reading record. The reading records are for the adults who read with the child to write a short comment about the child's reading and book talk. These books will be picture books in the first instance, so the children will tell a story by looking at the illustrations. As the children begin to learn new letters and sounds and start to blend the sounds into words, we will send home reading books with simple words, captions and short sentences in.</p>
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Mystery Readers	<p>Once a week we have a 'mystery reader' who visits the reception class and reads a story to the children.</p> <p>If you or one of your family members would like to be one of our mystery readers and share a story with us, please do get in touch. 😊</p>
WOW comments	<p>At Sunningwell school we value the parents' comments and observations about their children. Each child in Class 1 has his/her own individual learning journal where we record their development and progress.</p> <p>To help us gain an understanding of your child's learning journey, we would like you to record your child's 'WOW moments' that happen outside school time. It may be that they did something that they may have found previously difficult, or they made a fantastic Lego model, rode their bike for the first time, made a cake, scored a goal at football, put on a play for you, learnt some impressive historical facts, helped someone with a program on an iPad or played really well with their sibling or cousin ... it could be anything! We also welcome photographs, writing or any evidence to support the contents of the WOW comments. Please find the 'WOW moments' template in your child's book bag.</p>

If you have a particular interest or skill relating to the above topics, which you would be willing to come into school and share with the children, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Last but not least, if you have any further questions, please feel free to talk to me at the end of the school day or arrange a meeting through the school's office.

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Kind regards,

Mrs D. Mirza
 Class 1 Teacher
 EYFS and English Lead