



Dear Parent/Carer,

Mars Learning Letter Autumn 2024

Welcome to Mars Class and another school year. As you know, Mrs Rew and Mrs Mackenzie have followed your child's class into Year 1 and we are looking forward to this academic year. We are very lucky to have a fantastic teaching assistant, Mrs Talbot, who will be working in Mars Class every day.

As we are Year One now, we ask you to say goodbye to your child at the Mars gate, the children can then walk into the corridor independently. The door will open at 8.40am and will close for registration at 8.45am. Children will begin their learning quickly so please try to be on time. The day ends at 3.15pm and collection is from the Mars gate.

In Science, we will be learning about living things, animal groups and diets, senses and the human body. This term we will be doing PE on a Tuesday and Thursday but it is best to keep PE kits in school all week, just in case. Our Tuesday session is likely to be outside so as it gets colder you may like to pop in some joggers and jacket for your child to wear. In Geography we will be learning about the local area, you will receive a letter about a trip soon. In Art we will be learning about and creating self-portraits. We will continue with weekly PSHE, RE and Music. We will begin Computing using the school scheme 'Purple Mash' and we will send home logins so you can access this at home too.

Spelling and reading targets will continue in Year 1. We ask that you spend no more than five minutes per day reviewing a selection of each. If your child is finding learning the words tricky try just focusing on 5 words at a time, adding in more as they begin to make progress in learning them. Parents have recommended spelling apps such as 'Teach Monster', 'Hairy Letters' and 'Squeebles' and 'Spelling Shed' in the past.

All the children should have a reading bag/rucksack, a reading record and an individual book. Please bring them to school each day. Your child will read regularly at school but not necessarily from their individual book. Please, spend a short time each night sharing your child's book and recording it in the yellow reading record. We will count the reads weekly and the children will be rewarded with certificates etc. for their efforts. Please note that your child needs to read their book three times in order to achieve the expected level of fluency and comprehension before starting a new one. Your child will also complete two group reading sessions a week in school in order to develop fluency, expression and comprehension in a range of texts. Finally, we aim to change books on a Friday, if you think your child needs a new book sooner please let us know 😊

In Maths, we will begin learning Place Value to 10. This will include confidently counting to 10 and counting backwards from 10 to 0. We will then be learning the addition facts of all numbers to 10. We are learning to recognise numbers written as letters e.g. 3 and three.

In English our learning is based around the story 'Old Bear' We will be writing predictions, poems, messages and stories throughout the term. As always we will be working hard on our letter formation, sentence writing, finger spaces and full stops.

Through kindness, teamwork and determination we thrive

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In Phonics we will continue with the 'SoundsWrite' scheme and move onto 'Extended Code.' This begins exploring how sounds can be written in a number of ways e.g. the 'ay' sound in 'pay' can be spelt 'ai' in 'rain' and 'ey' in 'they'.

Finally, I hope your child has a fantastic first term in Mars class! If you have any issues, worries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Rew, Mrs Mackenzie and Mrs Talbot.