

# Live and Learn for Life



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## Elm Class Curriculum Letter - Autumn 1

Dear parents,

Welcome back! It has been lovely to have the children back in school and to hear all of the exciting things they have been doing with you at home.

We hope that you found the Year Group Guide for Year One, which was sent out with school reports at the end of the summer term, useful and that it gave you some idea of the expectations that come with moving into this year group. If you need another copy of this leaflet, please come and ask for one at the class door after school. We are very excited to have the children back in class and we will be working hard over the next few weeks to ascertain where they are currently working in terms of their learning in reading, writing, maths and the wider curriculum. As is always the case with year 1, we will be slowly moving away from a more 'EYFS' approach to school work towards a Year 1 structure of more formalised learning over this half term. Therefore, your child will still have plenty of structured play opportunities relating to their work, whilst moving towards a more formalised learning approach to support the transition of now working within the National Curriculum rather than the Early Years Foundation Stage. If you have any questions about the curriculum then please email the class mailbox or come and see me after school. There will also be an opportunity for further discussion during the autumn parents' evenings.

### Maths

This half term we will focus on number and place value. We will be looking at counting forwards and backwards, identifying one more and one less than given numbers, comparing numbers and adding.

### English

This half term we will continue to use Read, Write, Inc. as the programme to support reading and writing progression. This is the same programme that is used in the EYFS at Neroche.

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## Art

This half term in Art we will be focusing on abstract art, particularly focusing on the work of 3 artists: Wassily Kandinsky, Romero Britto and Paul Klee. The children will develop their use of colour and learn skills, such as tinting, to produce their own abstract artwork.

## Geography

This half term our Geography work will focus on the local area. We will go on a village walk to determine the physical and human features that make up Broadway. We will also develop map skills, thinking about map symbols and how to plot a route.

As part of our Geography topic, Travelling Ted will also visit each of your homes. Ted is the class teddy bear and each child will get a turn to bring him home after school. Please fill out his diary entry sheet, encouraging the children to write as much as possible. Each diary entry sheet will get stuck into Ted's journal, which is kept in the classroom and shared with everyone each day. If you take any photos of the fun things Ted gets up to whilst he visits your home, then please feel free to email them to the Elm mailbox for us to print out and add to Ted's journal.

## Tapestry

We will continue to use Tapestry for all children in Year 1. It is used in a slightly different way to EYFS, and not for all subjects. However, for subjects such as PE, Computing, RE, RSHE and Music, a record of work will be mainly documented via Tapestry, rather than having workbooks or folders for these subjects.

We will also put information onto Tapestry such as each 'Word of the Day' we focus on to widen vocabulary learning and any author focuses/books we read. So there will be regular notifications to look out for to help you feel informed about the things your child learns at school.

We will also be using Tapestry to share and celebrate amazing 'wow work' with you, so that you can see the work straight away and add comments and likes as well as sharing the pictures with your children at home.

To create your parent Tapestry account, we have used the email addresses provided by you previously. You should have already received an activation email. This may have gone into your junk mailbox, so please check here if you haven't seen it already. Any further problems please me know.

## PE

Just a quick reminder that PE days for this school year are Tuesdays and Fridays and the children will be coming into school in their PE kits for the whole day. This half term, the class have Forest School on a Tuesday for the middle 5 weeks of this half term, so can wear old home clothes to school and bring a pair of wellies to change into for the afternoon.

## Home Learning

In Year 1, for the first half term, the home learning focus will be on spelling rules that we learn in phonics and reading home-school books. Spelling **rules** are the focus rather than specific **words** to learn for a test. The children won't be formally tested in spellings, but will be continually assessed as part of their daily phonics sessions. After half term, maths home learning will also be set each Friday. This will be a short, optional, maths task to support number skills. Attached to this letter is your child's ReadiWriter login. This is an online spelling programme where they can



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play games relating to the spelling rule learnt each week. At the moment, the spellings for words with ay, ee, igh, ow and oo are currently set for your child to have a go at using the programme with. This programme is just for home use, and is an optional activity. The children can earn certificates for playing certain games/testing themselves on their spellings. If they earn any certificates, please notify me and I can print them off in school to take home.

## Updating information

Please ensure that the office have any contact detail changes e.g. phone numbers or addresses. If your child needs an inhaler or other medication in school on a daily basis, please ensure that all medication has been brought into school as soon as possible and that it is clearly named and in date. We also need an accompanying completed medication permission form which you can collect from us on the door or get from the school office.

## Reading

We will be carrying out reading/phonics assessments over this first week to determine where your child's phonics and reading level is after the summer break. Once we have completed these assessments, the children will bring home a book banded reading book. The book colours correlate to the phonics stage your child is working within, to ensure they can confidently recognise the sounds in the words they read. Please don't worry if a book has a different school coloured sticker on it, compared to the colour on the book, this is to ensure it matches our school system for our RWI phonics scheme, and not any other phonics or reading scheme.

We will be using a new reading log for you to record reading at home to help keep track of when your child reads. This record will come home with your child when they bring home their first reading book. An information meeting regarding reading at home for Year 1 parents is going to take place on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September** in the school hall at **3.10pm**. This will be an informal meeting where I will run through our reading approach for home and answer any questions you have about reading. If you are unable to attend the meeting but have a specific question about reading, please just catch me at the end of a school day.

## Tuesdays and Wednesdays

On a Tuesday, all day, and a Wednesday morning, the class will be taught by Mrs Laura Millard to cover my deputy release time. Mrs Millard and I work very closely together and share responsibility for the class on the days she is working. Therefore, if I am unavailable to speak with please feel free to speak with Mrs Millard in my absence.

We are really looking forward to a busy and exciting half term. Please do not hesitate to contact the Elm mailbox or catch me on the gate if you have any queries.



Miss Jessica Millard  
Elm Class Teacher  
Deputy Headteacher



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