

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy New Year and welcome to the Spring term in Year 1. We are excited for the term ahead and have lots of fantastic learning opportunities planned for the children.



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Our overarching topic this half term is Space. Amongst other learning, we hope to enjoy a Space themed day complete with Astronaut Trail, tasting of Space food and the sharing of information from experts at the National Space Centre.

Writing - Our main focus in writing will be on the children beginning to create grammatically accurate captions and sentences with correct punctuation. We will be practicing saying, remembering and writing a sentence using our phonic knowledge and tricky word vocabulary. The children need to practice at home regularly so that they know the sounds or spelling that they want to use in their writing. **Copies of your child's current phonics sounds and tricky words are inside their homework book, please ask if you need any support.*

phase



Phase 3	
Sounds	Tricky Words
	we me
	all are
	they my
	her was
	be you
	she he

We will be using a variety of purposes for our writing including the sequencing of familiar stories which will lead to us writing our own fantasy story and the creation of a class information booklet about Space.

Reading - We read daily to the children as part of our 'Reading pledge'. Already in Year one we have explored our first chapter books 'Dinosaur Diary by Julia Donaldson, 'The Giraffe Pelly and Me' by Roald Dahl and 'The Christmasaurus' by Tom Fletcher. The introduction to longer stories has enthused the children and you may like to explore other titles at home by these inspiring authors. This term we are enjoying the picture books series 'Aliens love Underpants' by Claire Freedman and Beegu by Alexis Deacon alongside Poetry and Space themed Non-fiction books. We ask that children read at home at least 3 times a week to support the development of reading, phonics and comprehension skills. Reading at home does not need to be lengthy each day. 'Book talk' is really important in order to find out if your child understands what they have read, whether they can predict what might happen next or find a specific word in the story that told them how a character was feeling. **If you would like to discuss your child's reading at home please email or talk to your child's teacher.*

Maths - In Maths, we will start the term learning more about Place Value. This helps the children to understand the value of a digit within a number. Once they know that 13 is more than 3 they can begin to compare numbers, exploring that 31 then is much greater than 13 as it is made up of 3 groups of ten. Once the children have a good grasp of place value with numbers to 20 we will move on to working on addition and subtraction looking closely at number bonds to 10 and 20. You can support your child's fluency in Maths daily at home by playing with numbers on your fingers adding more, showing less than a number, counting forwards and backwards in steps of 1, 2, 5, and 10 to help them remember the patterns.

Additionally by looking at your child's Big Maths sheet that is sent home weekly you can see what they struggling with and help them improve their scores to earn a Class Dojo!

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50

Science -Materials and how they are used will be the first focus in science for this term. Children will learn how the materials we use everyday have opportunities to investigate different materials and tasks. We will also continue to notice Seasonal outside environment, recording weather changes, warmer and we learn about Plants.

PSHE – Positive mental health and wellbeing are extremely important to us. Daily we ensure our class have mindful moments, time to reflect on how we are feeling, share any worries and celebrate our achievements. As part of our circle time focus we will be thinking about 'Managing risk', personal safety and our feelings and emotions.

History - This half term we will be focusing on Space Travel. This will intertwine with all of the other areas of learning so that the children have secure knowledge of major historic events related to our topic eg. The first man on the moon and recent space travel within our lifetime. This helps them to understand the idea of time, when events that took place compared to other information we have learnt already and how these have shaped our lives today. After half term we will learn about our Monarch Queen Elizabeth II. Towards the end of the term, we hope to have an experience day where the children will get the chance to prepare and enjoy a historical Royal Banquet.

Geography – We will continue to explore both human and physical features in geography. However, our study will concentrate on Locational knowledge finding out facts about; our planet, the continents, countries, the UK and London. This knowledge will be built upon during our Summer term topic My local Area and Africa.



PE - PE will continue to be on a Friday afternoon. The children are asked to come into school in their PE kit on this day. This term we will be doing Gymnastics and Games with an emphasis on ball skills and coordination.

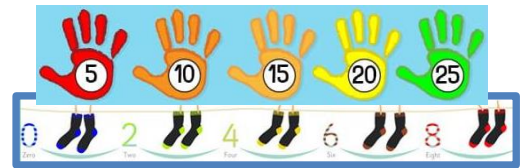
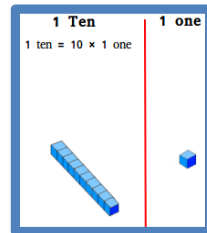
Art and Design Technology – This half term our focus is structures and textiles. The children will be designing, making and evaluating model rockets, space themed puppets and using different media to create some collaborative class space art.

Music – In music we will be continuing to listen and appraise a variety of musical styles. We will be thinking about finding the pulse, exploring pitch and rhythm this term.

RE – In Religious Education we will continuing to learn about Christianity, we will focus on the parts of a Church and the celebration and traditions of Easter.

Uniform - Please ensure that your child wears the correct uniform; if you have any concerns please contact your class teacher. We will be keeping windows and doors open to allow for good ventilation, so as the weather is now much colder, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately. We will be providing hot chocolate for the children regularly each week if wanted to help them feel cosy.

Homework - Homework will be sent home weekly on a Wednesday and be expected back the following Monday. Each week, as part of their homework, children will be expected to read at home at least 3 times a week and practice their phonic sounds, tricky words and Number bonds.



been developed over time and will have consider why they are best suited to certain changes in Winter and Spring, by exploring our completing growing experiments as it gets a little



Contact - If you wish to contact your class teacher please email: year1@leightonprimary.net or use Class Dojo. Alternatively, contact the school office: 01733 232949.

Thank you for your continued support.

The Year 1 Team

Mrs Wells (Seahorse Class),
Mrs Bird (Coral Class),
Miss Mole, Mrs Nelson and Mrs Cutajar.

Dates for your diary

- More details about these events will follow via email/letter.

28th January - Lego Day
1st February - Chinese New Year
29th January - 5th February National Storytelling Week
3rd February - Harry Potter Book Night
4th - 22nd February - Winter Olympics
8th February - Safer Internet Day
14th-18th February - Half term break
1st March - Pancake Day
3rd March - World Book Day
18th March - World Recycling Day/ Red Nose Day
21st March - Shakespeare Day/ Pi Day