



Head Teacher:

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year. We hope you all had a very enjoyable summer holiday.

Our team this year consists of:

Year 1AM - Mrs Meynell - Hartlepool

Year 1ML - Mrs Lake - Darlington

Year 1/2DS - Miss Scott - Cardiff

Year 2AB - Mrs Brown - London

Year 2NR - Mr Robinson - Edinburgh

The children will also benefit from the support of the teaching assistants based in Year 1 and 2. The children may complete various activities with the support of Mrs Cullinan, Mrs Green, Mrs Massa and Mrs Rose. Mrs Coverdale and Mrs Saint will be teaching the Year 1 classes on a Thursday afternoon and Mr Fowler, Mrs Saint and Mrs Wilkinson will be teaching the Year 1/2 and Year 2 classes on a Thursday morning to enable teachers to have their PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment) time.

Thank you for your support in making the beginning of the school year run so smoothly and calmly. The children have settled in well and appear keen and eager to learn! They all look very smart in their school uniforms! **Please would you make sure that all clothes and belongings are clearly marked with the children's names to avoid mix-ups - especially coats/shoes.** It is also beneficial if your child brings a named bottle of water to school daily.

As usual we will be continuing English and Maths on a daily basis.

In **English** our main focus up to Christmas will be stories, poetry and non fiction explanations and instructions. There will be a focus on Julia Donaldson as an author. Within the class the children will work individually, in pairs or in groups and one group per day will participate in a guided reading session with the teacher. This provides an opportunity to hear children read, discuss the texts and answer comprehension questions about the text. We will also be working on handwriting as we use a cursive script to ensure children can join the letters by the end of Key Stage 1.

Reading packets will be **sent home** twice weekly as usual, on **Tuesdays** and **Fridays**.

We do ask for the books to be **returned** on a **Monday** and by a **Thursday** to ensure we have enough time to change them and talk to the children about them. We value your continued support and would ask that when you hear your child read at home, you comment on how your child has coped with the book.

The focus in **Maths** this term will be number and place value. We will continue to learn number facts to 10 and 20, counting in 2s, 5s and 10s linked to multiplication facts, describing and identifying properties of 2D and 3D shapes and consolidating methods used in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Homework goes home every Friday and needs to be returned the following Monday, so the teacher can check it and make preparations for the next week's homework. Maths homework is intended as reinforcement of concepts covered in the lessons. If you or your child are anxious about the work, or the methods used, please do not hesitate to write a note in their book, and we will be pleased to help. For Year 2, spellings will form part of the homework. The children will be given a set of words incorporating a specific blend to learn for a test the following Thursday. Some children will be given a set of key words to learn throughout the year. Phonics homework for the Year 1 children will be sent home after Christmas.



Our topic is based around the book '**The Gruffalo**' by Julia Donaldson. We will also be looking at other books by the same author as the term progresses. In **Computing** we will improve our keyboard skills as well as looking at text, fonts and graphics. **Art** this term is all about experimenting with pattern and printing techniques linked to nature.

In **P.E.** we will be doing basic skills and outdoor games every week (weather permitting).

Children will need:

Indoor kit - white T-shirt and blue shorts.

Outdoor kit - jogging bottoms, a sweatshirt and **trainers**.

Please send P.E. kits into school as soon as possible if they are not already here and ensure that all kit is named. Due to space constraints, we ask that both PE kits are kept in one bag. We also ask that if your child wears earrings you remove them on P.E. days or cover them up with plasters provided from home.

In **Music** we are looking forward to creating new rhythms and doing lots of singing. We will be linking this to some Julia Donaldson songs as she is also a musician as well as an author. Our **Science** topic is Seasons/Habitats. We will also be continuing with the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) and this term our topics are New Beginnings, Say No to Bullying and Getting on and Falling out.

Wow! We have so much to cover before the Christmas holidays, including the Year 1 Performance. As you will appreciate, the children will be very busy!

Diary Dates

Thursday 20 th September - 3:15 - 3:45	Meet and greet for parents
Monday 8 th October	1/2DS, 2AB, 2NR Gruffalo Trip
Tuesday 9 th October	1AM, 1ML Gruffalo Trip
Monday 22 nd October / Wednesday 24 th October	Parents Consultation Evenings
October 29 th - November 2 nd	Half Term
Monday 5 th November	Back to school
Thursday 20 th December	End of term
Monday 7 th January	Back to school

Thank you to everyone who has already signed up to **Marvellous Me**. It is a great way for us to keep you informed on the progress your child is making and to let you know any important information and special news. Keep Hi5ing us!

The Key Stage 1 staff would **greatly** appreciate any help in the classroom. All new helpers need to have Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) clearance, so if interested please see your child's teacher to find out what to do.

Thank you.

Mrs Brown Mr Robinson Miss Scott Mrs Lake Mrs Meynell