

# Spring Term in Year 1

Welcome back to another busy half term in Year 1!

This half term we will be exploring the themes of 'Resilience and Adversity' through our curriculum, assemblies and continuous provision.

## Adversity

Adversity is hardship, challenge and misfortune, it is things going wrong. We will teach that adversity is a difficult thing to face, as it brings negative emotions, but that it is something that everybody faces in different ways. When we meet adversity we can choose to decide that life is unfair and to give up on our goals or we can choose to do what we can to overcome the problem. We will learn about famous people who suffered different kinds of adversity and overcame it to achieve their goals. We will ask the question 'does adversity make you stronger?' and 'would life be better or worse without adversity?'. We will link adversity to the concept of resilience and give children practical ways to develop their resilience.

## Resilience

Resilience is how we handle adversity. We are resilient when we know how to work together, persevere to solve problems and cope with big emotions. There are ways that we can develop our resilience. Working as a supportive team reminds us that we are safe, loved and cared for, and that there are people who can help all around us. Working together we can be more resilient. Challenging ourselves to solve problems is great for building our resilience as it gives us a chance to practise solving problems. When we meet future obstacles we are reminded that we can handle problems – we have done it before and can do it again! To be resilient we need to be able to cope with all the big emotions that adversity can bring. Learning to recognise and accept these emotions is the first step to coping with them.

## English

This half term we will continue to look at simple narratives. We will tie this into our Science learning and start to notice "growth and change" around us. We will write simple instructions and use fairy tales such as Jack and the Beanstalk and the Enormous Turnip as our starts, focussing on the language used, characters and settings of each; and then again building up to writing an extended piece and even changing something along the way!

Children will continue to work on punctuating sentences with full stops and will develop their use of adjectives to extend their sentences.

In phonics we will continue to re-visit the sounds taught in the EYFS and consolidate learning by applying them to our reading and writing. We will be reading real and pseudo words with the taught graphemes, in preparation for the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check next half term – more information about this will be sent out later this term.

## Maths

In Maths our focus will be on Addition and Subtraction to 20, encouraging the children with their "problem solving and reasoning" skill development. We will then begin to look at Length and Height, Volume and Weight, hopefully exploring outside as the weather improves!

## PSHE

Through our concepts of "Adversity and Resilience" we will begin to focus on our mental health and well being, growing and change. Children will be encouraged to be reflective, self-aware and open to new experiences so that they might discover their own passions. Children will learn about the great contributions made by people following their dreams in areas such as science, sport, literature and humanitarian causes in our assemblies and in books available to read in the classrooms.

## Music

Children will be investigating the musical terms "tempo" (fast and slow) and "pitch" (high and low notes). They will be using the untuned and tuned instruments to perform a piece of music using these skills.

## Design and Technology

Our focus will be on "Mechanisms". The children will be learning to create "moving pictures" and developing the skills needed to add and change things in their designs, in preparation for their "big" project in the summer term.

In the outside classrooms, children will be using the woodwork areas, and taught how to independently fix and join wood together with hammers, nails and wood glue.

## RE

'Special Symbols and People' is our RE topic this term. We'll consider symbols and people that are special to us before thinking about special symbols and objects to Jewish and Buddhist families. We will also look at the Easter Story and think about why it is important to Christian families.

## PE

This half term we will focus on "sending and receiving" and "throwing and catching".

PE days are Monday and Friday (Elephant), Tuesday and Thursday (Frog) and Mondays and Thursdays (Bee).

Please remove earrings on these days and ensure PE kits are in school.