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Rosa Street Primary School
Spennymoor
County Durham
DL16 7NA

Dear Parents/carers,

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope that you have had an enjoyable summer break and that the children are excited to begin their journey in Year 1. There will be many new learning experiences and opportunities for the children this year. Our first theme this year is 'Part of the Party'. This is a book we have used as a guide during our transition afternoons. The book touches on a range of areas that are important to the school. The book looks at some of the protective characteristics, equality, the rights of the child and this all links to us being a Rights Respecting school.

Maths

In Year 1 to Year 6 we use 'Power Maths' and 'White Rose' as the basis for our mastery approach to maths. This approach focuses on the development of children's mathematical skills as well as creating a problem solving mind set. Our first units of work will be numbers within 10, the part whole model and then addition and subtraction within 10.

English

During this half term we will develop basic skills and hand writing through both fiction and non-fiction writing. Our English this term will link with our topic 'Part of the Party'. We will read fiction text around the theme of being different and accepting people for who they are. We will then create a range of writing based on books we have read as a class.

Science

Our new topic in science this term is 'Animals including humans'. During our science lessons we will look at the five main animal groups (amphibians, birds, fish, mammals and reptiles). We will look at each group in detail and compare the characteristics of each group. This half term we will also look at the topic of autumn focusing on the weather and how autumn is different from the other seasons.

PE

This half term we will have a football coach running one session a week and in our other PE lessons will be focused around the game 'Ten Point Hoop'. Pupils will explore and expand upon a range of skills during this half term. We expect all children to have a PE kit in school (this can be left in school for the half term). A PE kit should contain a white t-shirt, shorts and trainers/plimsolls. PE sessions will take place on a **Tuesday and Wednesday**. Pupils need a PE kit to be kept in school all week, as there may be other opportunities to complete PE based activities. Earrings have to be taken out on PE days and long hair needs to be tied up.

Computing

This half term in computing we will use the Bee-Bots to work on algorithms and debugging.



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Art

This term in art we will start by focusing on the artist Michelle Reader. We will look at her art work and then use her as inspiration to make sculptures out of recycled material.

History

Our history lessons this term will be based on George Stephenson. We will create a timeline of his life and discover the impact he has had on modern society.

RE

In RE this term we will be focusing on the religion Christianity. Our focus will be the question 'Why is Jesus important to Christians?'

Music

As a school we use the Charanga Music program (an online musical resource) that is used throughout Durham schools. This will give pupils the opportunity to listen to and appreciate music whilst becoming familiar with the terminology. They will also learn to sing and dance along with the songs.

PSHE/Seal

Our topic this term is 'New Beginnings'. We will identify changes that have happened in the children's lives and how this makes them feel. As well as identifying feelings and how to manage a wide range of emotions.

Reading books will be sent home with pupils every night. Pupils will not receive a new book every day, this is to ensure that pupils can not only read the book but can answer questions and understand what they have read. Pupils' reading records will be checked every morning and can be used to communicate with myself. Homework will be set on a Friday and needs to be brought back into school on a **Thursday morning** at the latest so there is accurate time for marking and new homework to be set. We really encourage children to access bug club at home to develop their reading skills. This has books that children can read that have attached activities to help improve children's comprehension. It also has grammar and spelling activities that pupils can access independently. If you have lost your login, please let me know. This year we are focusing on careers. The careers we look at will link to the units we are teaching. This term we will look at the careers of train drivers, conductors, engineers, inventors as well as artists that work with recycled materials. If anyone has a career in any of these areas and would like to talk to the children about their job we would love to have you in.

I hope pupils are looking forward to a new and exciting year in Year 1. If you would like further information or have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,
Miss Bennett



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