

September 2019

Dear Parents,

## Curriculum Letter for Year 1



### This term's **BIG** question: What if Paddington got lost in Daventry?

This is our enquiry this term and will therefore be the focus for all of our learning.

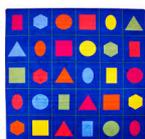
Your children, giving them the opportunity to ask and write questions that will drive this topic, will lead our enquiry. These questions will be referred to as our 'umbrella questions'. Already we have many interesting questions, which will lead to us exploring who Paddington is, where he came from, what he eats, what he knows and how we can help him get to know Daventry.



All areas of the curriculums will be covered under this topic.

#### Maths

We are also going to be investigating many different mathematical concepts this term. Including;



Shapes, representing numbers in many ways, place value (to understand that a digit's value will depend upon the place it is in), exploring our number line whilst looking at one more and one less, greater than and less than, addition and subtraction sums.

The children will become familiar with symbols such as  $<$ ,  $>$ ,  $+$ ,  $-$ ,  $=$  really embedding their understanding of these to solve mathematical problems.

1-20



Look out for the number line in your child's book bag. Please help them to use it, you could ask them to "find the number 3, count on 1, 2 or 3 – where are you? Alternatively, find the number 5, count back 1 – where are you now?"

Encourage your child to slide their finger forwards and backwards. Perhaps your child could challenge you too! In addition to this, you could also investigate numbers and shapes when you are out and about. Perhaps you could be a number detective and take photos of your findings, what numbers can you see? You could count out amounts at home or the amount of steps when you are out. Maybe you could investigate the number on your

door. Could you investigate how many different ways there are to make this number? Can your child notice the amount of tens and ones? Please take photos and send these to Miss Cooney, as I would love to see.

# Oxford Reading Buddy

Please log in and encourage your child to read at home. It is a fantastic resource and your child's reading skills will benefit a lot from using this.

Some children will now read print around them - you can encourage them to do this by, for example, spotting items in the supermarket - jam, milk, coffee, etc.

We will also be sending home a bookmark for your child to keep; it features all of the reading friends that we use in school to help with developing skills for reading.

**Please do look out for the reading basket. It will be out each morning. Put your child's book in it if you feel that they are ready to have it changed. We shall then try our best to change it during the day.**

In Literacy, we will be working to develop all of our writing skills, in many exciting and engaging ways. We will explore successful sentences and elements we can add to them to make them exciting. Can your child think of lots of describing words (adjectives) at home? Please ask your children to show you their phoneme fingers. These will help them hear all the sounds in words for writing. We will also be practising our handwriting using our Kinetic Letters. As part of our wonderful handwriting scheme, we will be making our bodies stronger too. We will practice many poses such as; the meerkat, penguin, lizard, stone lion and gorilla. We will also lay on our tummies lots and lots, all of which will be boosting our core strength.



In addition to this, the children will be embarking on many more adventures with the Phonics Fairy and Tricky troll. These are key characters in our phonics scheme and they will be visiting the children daily bringing new sounds or tricky words with them each time. **Please ask your children if the phonics fairy visited them and which sounds they have learnt. They may even be able to show you the caption action. See if they can apply these sounds to words, you could go on a sound hunt or find items around the house that contain these, perhaps on a cereal box or letter? Can your child segment the sounds in words using their phoneme fingers to help them? Can they practice writing as much as possible, maybe in birthday cards or helping to write a shopping list for you?**

Throughout the term, cross-curricular links will be made to all aspects of the national curriculum ensuring the children have an extensive breadth of experiences to enhance their individual learning journeys.

**Science:** As Paddington takes us around the world, we will meet other animals along the way. We will be classifying these animals and looking closely for similarities and differences. We will explore different animal habitats and explore why animals have different habitats. As the seasons change, we will continue to investigate what changes we can see.



**Geography:** This term we are following Paddington Bear around the world. We will begin by exploring atlases to find locations. The children will then see that the world is made of seven continents. To find Paddington Bear, the children will explore South America and Peru in particular. We will begin to compare where Paddington Bear lives in comparison to where we do, looking closely at human and physical features of the environments.

**Art:** We are very lucky to have an artist coming into school and working with us this term! He will be supporting the children as they develop different artistic techniques. The children will be using a range of techniques to create pictures and sculptures.

**History:** In history, we will be looking at what we know about the ancient Incan civilisation by looking at artefacts, artwork, stories, and legends from the time.

**PSHE:** Our Jigsaw friends are back to help us once again. This term we will be learning about 'Being Me in My World'. As we are settling into our new classes, we will look at how we can help each other to be the best that we can be#



Learning Treasures and Learning Pirates



At St James we highly value home learning and love for you to share this with us. In Sunflower class we have Learning Treasures that can be found outside our classroom on display with our lovely Learning Pirates. These pirates help us learn by helping us understand the characteristics of effective learning. Please share any super learning your child does at home with us, by using these. These are tremendously important to us and the children love to share them with their peers. Thank you for those who have used these to date. Please don't hesitate to take a learning pirates handout to help you understand all of their roles in our learning.



**Other things to remind you;**

- Home Learning projects will be put on Class dojo during the first few weeks of the term., please keep your eye out for this and return any learning to school within the term. These will then be showcased at the end of each term.
- Our **PE** will be on **Wednesdays**. Please keep PE kits in the children's lockers. We will send these homes every week on a Friday.

- All children do need a **change of clothes**. Children are usually happier to be changed into their own things, rather than any spares we might have. These clothes can be kept in their lockers too.
- Please ensure that your child has a pair of wellies in their locker. This will ensure they can access the outdoor at all times. We will be using this area for our learning all year round and in all weathers.
- Water bottles will be sent home every Friday for washing, please ensure that this is returned every Monday so that your child has access to a drink throughout the day. The children also use their water bottles at lunchtime. If we have to issue your child a new water bottle you will be charged £1.00 via our parent pay system.
- Please also keep an eye out on Class Dojo for other announcements that may arise.



Starting school at the right time is going to be so important this term. The children will be beginning their learning as soon as they arrive.

### Upcoming Events:

- We will be taking the children on a community and Autumn walk this term. The date for these will be confirmed. We have already been to the local shop and they children took great pride in paying for their jam themselves. **Could you explore amounts of money at home too?**
- Performance, the children will be learning a poem this term and we will be inviting you to view their performance of this. This will take place on 25<sup>th</sup> September at 9.15am (more information to follow).
- Our Harvest festival will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> November- more information to follow.
- We will be holding curriculum information sessions for each class. This is an opportunity for you to gain further information about the curriculum that we follow and for us to answer any queries that you may have. This will take place 25<sup>th</sup> September at 9.15am.
- Parent's evenings will be on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October from 3.30-5.00pm and 24<sup>th</sup> October from 5.30-7.00pm. More information about these to follow.



If you have any questions or queries, please do ask either at the start of the day or when you collect your child.

Best wishes, Miss Cooney, Miss Fuller and Mrs White.