

January 2019

Dear Parents,

## Curriculum Letter for Year 1



### This term's **BIG** question: Can you introduce yourself to an alien?

This is our enquiry this term and will therefore be the focus for our learning. Your children will be given the opportunity to ask and write questions that will drive this topic and lead our enquiry. These questions will be referred to as our 'umbrella questions'.

We already have many interesting questions: how are we different to aliens? What is an alien? Where did they come from? How did they get here?



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

### Maths

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

addition and subtraction, commutative law and inverse operations, place value to 50, length, height, weight and capacity. We will also consolidate learning to date to ensure we have a deep understanding of each concept. This will allow the children to retain this information and apply it in many ways.

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

to

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

## How can you help at home?

At home, 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 they see? You could count out amounts at home or the number of steps when you are out. Maybe you could investigate the number on your door. Could you find out how many different ways there are to make this number? Can your child notice the number of tens and ones? Please take photos and send these to Miss Cooney, as I would love to see. **Further to this- LOOK OUT for your child's log-in to our new system 'School Jam'. This is an online resource to support your child's learning. It will also have some super hints and tips for the grown ups at home on how maths is taught in school. Please talk to Miss Cooney if you need any help with navigating this site or if you have trouble logging in.**



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 it.

**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. It is also really important that every child has their reading book and record in school every day. We'd be really grateful for your support with this.**

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 by going on a sound hunt or find items around the house that contain the sounds, 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? Perhaps they'd like to write stories to bring in and share with their friends too.**

**Science:** This term we will be exploring what makes a good scientist. We will be carrying out lots of practical experiments. We will be finding out how we can work scientifically, observing and making changes to our experiments to review outcomes and record these for others to see.



**Geography:** This term as we blast around our solar system, we will be exploring planet Earth. We will be learning all about what makes the Earth the planet that it is, building upon the knowledge we gained last term. This will include the seven continents and five oceans. We will look at aerial photographs and use maps, atlases and globes to help with our explorations.

**Art:** This term we will continue to have our wonderful sessions with our artist Piper. We will also be exploring the work of artists such as: Pablo Picasso, Andy Warhol, Wassily Kandinsky and Henry Moore. We will also be exploring comics and pop art. Your child will be creating lots of wonderful artwork which we will look forward to showcasing at the end of term.

**History:** In History this term, we will be using the time line to plot the space race. We will also look closely at the lives of significant others such as Neil Armstrong, Tim Peake and Helen Sharman. The children have already shown a great interest in the first dogs who landed on the moon in 1960.

**PSHE:** Our Jigsaw friends are back to help us once again. This term we will be learning about 'Dreams and Goals'. We have already set new year's resolutions and well be reflecting on our



our

progress lots. We will be setting mini goals and big future dreams too. Look out for us sharing these with you.



## Learning Treasures and Learning Pirates



At St James we highly value home learning and love 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 home 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 with 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.
- Please ensure that all children have their reading record and reading book in school with them every day.
- 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:**

- Pantomime- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January during the morning.
- Sunflowers class assembly- Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 9.10am until approximately 9.30am.
- Internet Safety Say – 11<sup>th</sup> February.



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, Mrs Dixon and Mrs White.