



**Year 1  
Newsletter**

**05.09.25**

Hello everybody – welcome to Year 1! I want to take the opportunity to introduce myself and the support staff that will be working in Year 1 this year. My name is Mrs Straw and this will be my 11<sup>th</sup> year at Kirkstall! Prior to this I worked as a teacher in Derby and the Cotswolds. Alongside me is the phenomenal Mrs Matthews who I have worked with for many years. I like to call us the dream team! Mrs Matthews has extensive experience as both a one to one support TA and as a class based TA. We are joined this year by a lovely student teacher, Miss Alam, who I am training and Mrs Sutcliffe who will provide 1:1 and small group support where needed. This half term our topic is: **Who I am & Where I live..** In our newsletters I try and give you an insight into what your child is doing in school and ideas for things you could do at home to support this- I hope it is helpful!

**Personal & Social Development, wellbeing & cultural diversity**

Our focus will be on classroom rules and behaviour as well as kindness and a mini first aid session.

**Maybe you could:** Think about jobs and rules you have at home, rules out in the community, and how these are similar/different from school rules and expectations.

**Mathematical Development**

This half term will focus on place value within 10, and sorting objects into groups saying what is similar or different. This could include doubles and halves to ten and number bonds to ten.

**Maybe you could:** Practice instant recognitions of amounts (known as subitising) by rolling a dice or playing dominoes!

**Language, Literacy & communication**

In English we will read stories with familiar settings, largely around families and toys. We will then move on to learning about labels, lists and signs.

**Maybe you could:** Ensure your child is writing for real life purposes such as the shopping list, 'don't forget' memos, thank you notes for gifts, birthday cards, etc.

**Physical Development**

Playtimes are plentiful in Year 1 and we enjoy lots of active learning inside and outside of the classroom. PE is on a Thursday, please come in your kit.

**Maybe you could:** Go for regular walks in nature. Not only is this great for burning off energy but it's great for mental health and nature knowledge/vocabulary too!

**Knowledge & Understanding of the world**

This half term the children should get a good understanding of where they live (Leeds), that it is a city, and know our capital city is London. The National Curriculum target is to know the countries and capitals of the UK.

**Maybe you could:** Ensure your child knows their street address and the city they live in. Explore the local area and discuss landmarks in both London and Leeds.

**Creative development**

There will be ample opportunity for creativity during the day. Specific art lessons will focus on Harold Offeh's art and pattern making. We may make requests for restock of crafting items if you would be so kind.

**Maybe you could:** Look for books about art and artists, or visit a gallery.

Homework will be provided weekly. This will comprise of: spelling practice (best done a little and often), reading (ideally a minimum of 4x a week), letter formation and a small additional task. The spellings will often have a focus sound, e.g. kn words- your child should only need to learn the focus sound as the rest of the word tends to use phonics they already know. To be classed as working 'at' year 1 standard a good aim is 7/10 with your child being able to spell the tricky (common exception) words in their independent writing too). Homework due Thursdays. Many many thanks for your support with this, the 1:1 time with an adult practicing these skills is invaluable.