



## Year 1 Newsletter

06.09.24

Hello everybody – welcome to Year 1! I wanted 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 10<sup>th</sup> year at Kirkstall! Prior to this I worked as a teacher in Derby and the Cotswolds and I have been lucky enough to work in mainstream and Special Needs schools. Alongside me is the ever organised 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 the wonderful Miss Barraclough who is already fully on board with the KS1 way of life. 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- although these are totally optional. I hope it is helpful!

### 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

The National Curriculum target is to know the countries and capitals of the UK. However, I am hoping the children get a good understanding of where they live (Leeds) and know our capital city is London at a minimum.

**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.

### 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 dominos!

**Phonics: Our top priority in Year 1. If nothing else, PLEASE ensure your child knows these sounds as the weeks progress. Ideally make a flashcard with them on to practice them as and when you can, e.g. before reading. Thank you!**

Week 2 : ay saying "ai", Week 3: oy saying "oi", Week 4: ie saying "igh", Week 5: ea saying "ee", Week 6: a-e saying "ai" as in *cake*, Week 7: i-e saying "igh" and o-e saying "oh."

### 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 and how these are similar/different from school rules and expectations.

### Language, Literacy & communication

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

**Maybe you could:** Spot signs out and about- what do they say? What do they mean? Please try and read with your child every day in some capacity.

### 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. Junk modelling donations gratefully received!

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