



September 2019

Dear Parent or Carer,

Welcome to Year 1 and Year 2 in Mardle class! We hope you and your family have had a good summer and that following 'Transition Week' and the first few days of school, your child is now settled and ready for the busy year ahead. Continuing this transition, we would like to invite you to a 'Meet the teacher' session on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September at 3:00-3:30. If you are unable to make this session, further information will be on our website.

We have some exciting learning opportunities planned for this coming year, including our 'WOW' moments and visitors that help to inspire and motivate our learning and create long-lasting educational memories. We begin the term with our topic 'From Dinosaur bones to mobile phones' where we will be discovering more about ourselves and our personal history in comparison to time long, long ago when strange creatures roamed our land. We connect all of our learning through exploring different aspects of Science, Computing, History, Geography, RE, PE, Art, Music and Design and Technology to help form our 'creative learning journey'.

KS1 will be having some very special visitors into school on the 17<sup>th</sup> October who will help us to explore fossils and learn more about dinosaurs. On this day, we would like children to come in dressed as dinosaurs or palaeontologists to prepare us for our fossil collecting that day. We are very excited about this visit!

We are thrilled to be continuing our inspiring whole-school community journey into 'GROWTH MINDSET'. You may already be discussing this in your household, but if not, come in to find out more, as you will soon discover that changing what we think and say can have significant impact on progress and success. Make sure you keep a lookout for further information as TOGETHER, we continue to be challenged and engaged in changing the way we look at learning in the coming weeks, months and years!

### Literacy

We will be continuing our phonics scheme called 'Read Write Inc'; a complete literacy programme for 4 to 7 year-olds. We are extremely excited about the impact this has already had on our children's reading and writing at Highweek. If you would like to find out more, there is a lot of helpful information, videos and tips on the 'Read Write Inc' website, so that you can fully support your child in making accelerated progress.

<http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/read-write-inc-programmes/phonics/> Your child may

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continue to bring home other class books but the focus of their reading development will be based on those read during their Read Write Inc sessions. It is important that you share and celebrate their success so that they feel motivated and inspired to continue reading for pleasure.

We have high expectations of presentation in all of our work books at all times and will be teaching handwriting formation during the school day. You can help by ensuring that you watch your child when they write, checking that they are forming letters and joins correctly.

Year 1 children undertake phonic screening in June 2020. This is a formal reading test set by the Government. All Yr1 children will be expected to segment sounds in words and to blend sounds back together to read real and nonsense words in order to meet the expected level. Phonics is still a high priority in Year 2 but there is greater emphasis on accurate use and application of grammar and spelling. Read Write Inc sessions also specifically teach skills needed to aid age-related comprehension. Reading is an essential skill that will enable your child to enjoy and achieve in all subjects. You can help by reading with your child at least three times a week and by talking about what they have read. We encourage children to read the same book more than once to support fluency and confidence, to aid understanding and to help them become an 'expert' on the text. Please sign their reading record to show they have read at home so they can independently change books in school. We would love to welcome you in to Mardle class on Tuesday mornings for the 'COME READ WITH ME' session, where you can share home or school books with your child in their school environment.

### Mathematics

In our maths sessions we offer a variety of practical, recorded and verbal activities to develop a range of mathematical skills. There is a strong emphasis on building 'number sense'; a confidence, fluency and 'mastery' of numbers alongside the ability to use or apply them in different contexts. It is also really important that your child can manipulate numbers in their heads (mental calculations). You can help by working with them to count, add, subtract, divide, multiply and by learning number bonds (pairs of numbers that make 10, 20, 100 etc). Each day we focus on the basic number skills of counting alongside real life problem solving and investigations. Look out for opportunities in your daily routines to support your child

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with real-life maths, such as; shopping (money), planning/organising your day (time) and cooking (weighing and measuring.) There is also greater focus on 'reasoning' in maths. You can help by asking questions or prompts for deeper maths thinking and talk. E.g. How do you know? If you know that, what else do you know? Prove that to me. Show me. Convince me. Can that be true? Why?

## PE

We have PE on Thursday but please ensure that your child always has PE kit in school (purple top, black shorts, black tracksuit bottoms and trainers or plimsolls). It would be really helpful if you could clearly name all kit, uniform and personal belongings as this saves us a lot of time and confusion! There is also a range of after school sports clubs on offer by Premier Sports this year commencing on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September.

## Preview Work

Your child will be given 'preview tasks' to support and extend their learning in class. If you make time to support your child with this, you will be giving them an advantage in school, as it will provide them with a head start in their learning. This will usually be given out throughout the term with enough time for you to complete the task. All tasks are explained to the children before it is given out but you will need to support your child in order for them to gain the most from it.

## Admin

ALL money must be delivered into school in an envelope, clearly labelled with the child's name and stating the purpose of what the money is for. (E.g. lunch money, Yr 1/2 trip money, Red Nose Day money.) Alternatively, you can pay via the Parentmail system.

I am available if you need to speak to me but if you don't manage to catch me at school, my email address is: [leden@highweekprimary.co.uk](mailto:leden@highweekprimary.co.uk) and [mtaylor@highweekprimary.co.uk](mailto:mtaylor@highweekprimary.co.uk)  
Thank you for your co-operation and support.

L Eden, M Taylor and KS1 team