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4th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after the long summer break. We hope that you all had a lovely time with your families. Miss Joyce, Miss Gilmour and I have been busy getting the classroom ready and planning new topics. We have some lovely things planned and incorporated local trips.

So.... first things first. All our classes are named after types of birds. The Year 1/2 class are Robins.

I will teach the class every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Miss Joyce will teach every Thursday and Friday. Miss Gilmour will be in class all week.

Moving from Reception into KS1 is a huge change for children due to lessons becoming more formal. To help the year 1 children with this transition they will still have chance to choose their own learning and access role play, water activities etc. Throughout the half term they will gradually spend more time in the class room.

This half term PE will be on a Wednesday afternoon. After the October break it will change to Tuesday afternoon. Children will need a PE consisting of shorts, T-shirt and PE pumps. There will be no swimming for our class this term.

Homework will be given on a Friday and handed back in on a Wednesday. Some homework will relate to topic work whilst other homework may be given to consolidate skills that children are finding tricky. Your child may not get the same homework as other children in the class. Homework may not be given to all children every week as we don't want to give homework just for the sake of it. We want it to support the children's learning.

Each week the children will have spellings to learn and reviewed every Friday morning to see how well they can remember them. New spelling will be given out every Friday.

You will see from the timetable that the children have a guided reading session every day. During the week they will read to Miss Joyce or myself and also to Miss Gilmour. Each reading group has a designated day to change their reading books. As the books are only changed once a week children can have more than one book depending on their reading ability. Don't worry, they will have plenty to read at home throughout the week and reading is carefully monitored in school. It really helps us if children bring their book bags into school every day. If you have any questions, please ask.

I'm sure that you will all have lots of questions about assessments, SATs and the Year 1 Phonics test so I would like to invite you to a parents meeting on Thursday 14th September @3.30 to discuss this further.

Children have been issued with a new water bottle. They will bring it home every Friday (for a good wash!). Please ensure that children bring their bottles back on Monday mornings.

Here is an overview of the topics that will be covered this half term. All the plans will soon be on the school website so if you'd like to know more that's the place to look.

Subject	Topic	Summary
PSHE	Relationships Autumn 1 New Beginnings Self Awareness Values (assembly themes) for the half term. Week 1 – I have made a good first impression. Week 2 – I have shown good manners. Week 3 – I am Respectful. Week 4 - I work hard in class. Week 5 – I present my work beautifully. Week 6 – I take care of my classroom. Week 7 – I am Star of the Half Term. (We want the children to be aware of the weekly values and be aware of things they can do to win the green jumper. Please discuss these with your child)	Children will learn that feelings, thoughts and behaviours refer to different things. They will become aware that our feelings can vary in intensity and know that all feelings are acceptable but that not all behaviours are acceptable. They will recognise that context affects the acceptability of different behaviours.
History	Our Local area – railway	We will learn about the development of the Furness Railway line and why it was so important for Barrow. We will also learn about what it was like to grow up in Barrow during 1850 - 1860 Trip – Dock Museum
RE	Hindu Dharma: Can worship help people remember what is important?	Children will have a basic introduction to Hinduism. They will find out how and where Hindus worship and what is important to them.
Science	Habitats	Children will learn that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other. They will learn the names a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including micro-habitats. They will find out about different kinds of habitats near school which need to be cared for They will know that Habitats provide the preferred conditions for the animals/plants that live there (compare local habitats and less familiar examples). Children will be able to describe how different kinds of plants and animals live in different kinds of places. We will be looking in the school grounds and local hedgerows to find animals in their natural habitats.
Computing	Text and Images	We will learn how to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop correct use of the keyboard (e.g. spacebar, backspace, delete, shift (not caps lock) and enter keys) • Select appropriate images to add to work and add captions to photos and graphics

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select text appropriately e.g. highlighting or clicking text to select and make simple changes to text e.g. colour, style and size • Select text from word lists (if necessary) • Word process short texts directly onto the computer (i.e. do not just copy up handwritten work) • Navigate round text in a variety of ways e.g. mouse, arrow keys, touch, when editing work • Save and store work in an appropriate area, and be able to print, retrieve and amend it
Art	Drawing	Children will study Henri Matisse and look at the drawing techniques he used. They will then experiment themselves to try to achieve the same effects.
DT	Sculptures	Children will carefully look at pictures frames to see how they have been made. They will then design and make their own picture frame.
PE	Gymnastics	This half term the children will be practicing jumps, rolls and balances and practice performing short sequences.

If there is anything else that you wish to know just ask Miss Joyce, Miss Gilmour or myself. Please don't sit and worry at home!

Best wishes,

Miss Mountford