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Cleves Cross Primary and  
Nursery School  
Ferryhill  
County Durham  
DL17 8QY



Autumn 1a 2021

Dear Parents,

It is lovely to have the children back at school - they are enjoying being together and we've had a lovely first few days. Although learning is a little more formal now, there is still plenty of time and opportunities both indoors and outdoors for learning through play with hands-on activities, which I know the children enjoy and benefit from.

The theme for this half term is '**Marvellous Me**'. Within this topic we will be focusing on the following:

#### Phonics

Phonics is a crucial element of the Year 1 Curriculum and is key to children's reading and spelling development. We are about to introduce a new phonics programme in school and will be sending some information home about it separately. Support with reading at home is important and we will be supporting you in this.

#### English

We will be exploring a range of fiction and non-fiction texts, many linked to our topic. Main stories that we will focus on include **Whatever Next** and **Peace at Last** (Jill Murphy).

We will be practising our correct pencil grip and letter formation. We will begin to recognise capital letters and full stops. We will be practising phonics every day too.

Reading is a very important element of learning in Year 1 and we will be making the most of every opportunity for reading that we can. Please can you ensure your child reads regularly at home and brings their reading books and reading diary into school every day - it makes such a difference to their progress. If you would like any support and guidance, please just ask!

#### Mathematics

We are focusing on number work this half term; sorting objects in different ways, counting objects, writing numerals correctly, finding one more and one less, comparing amounts, ordering objects and amounts, addition, number bonds, whole and part numbers. Plenty of counting at home would be really helpful.

#### Science

##### **Animals including humans**

We will do activities that involve identifying, naming, drawing and labelling the basic parts of the human body and investigating which part of the body is associated with each sense.

#### Geography (ongoing)

We will be learning about the weather and seasons.

#### History

We will be investigating the question, *How do our favourite toys and games compare to our parents' and grandparents' toys?*





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### Music

Music will be based around a song called 'Hey You!' where we will explore how we can make use sounds expressively and in different ways - long/short, high/low.

We will explore rhythms and musical patterns, and how to create different effects.

### Art

We will be creating self-portraits and exploring famous artists including Picasso.

*Our creative area will also offer opportunities for:*

*Painting:* using different brushes, and mixing colours.

*Collage:* using a combination of materials that are cut, torn and glued.

*Sculpture:* using a combination of shapes, and using different materials such as rolled up paper, straws, paper and card.

### Computing

Children will use a range of equipment including iPads and Beebots and they will explore how to log on and navigate the devices. They will also learn about keeping safe online.

If they could bring in their own headphones to keep in their tray, that would be helpful.

### RE

We will learn about what Christians believe about God.

### RSHE

We will learn how to recognise and discuss how we feel at different times and how to behave towards others. We are using Zones of Regulation to help us to regulate our emotions and employ strategies to help us. We will think about ourselves, learn from our experiences and recognise what we are good at. We will identify and respect the differences and similarities between people.

### PE

PE this half term will be on **Tuesday** and **Wednesday** afternoons.

We will be exploring spatial awareness activities and the awareness of where we are in relation to other people and objects. The children will follow simple trails and solve simple problems.

They will also learn some simple games where they will begin to work with their friends.

Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school. Please remember that earrings must not be worn on those days for safety reasons. Please make sure all items of clothing are **clearly named** so we can get any lost items back to you as soon as possible.

We will also be continuing our whole-school approach to sustainability, global citizenship, Rights Respecting and Fairtrade through various activities.

Homework will be sent out on a Thursday and should be completed by the following Tuesday. Sometimes it will be online tasks and other times the children will bring the task home.

If you have any concerns at all or would like to discuss any aspects of the curriculum further, please come in and see us. We are all really looking forward to working with the children and yourselves once again.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs Hilton and Year 1 staff

