

Curriculum Report to Parents

Autumn 2023

White and Blue Class.

Welcome to a new year at Grafton School. We hope that you enjoyed the summer and are looking forward to an exciting Autumn term in Year One. It has been lovely to meet many of you already and we look forward to seeing you at the annual Harvest Festival Supper and Parents' Evening.

This term we follow a similar structure to Reception, with some of the children's learning being on an informal basis and through play. The mornings will include a English and Maths session, along with a weekly music session with our music specialist Juwon and Norris. During the afternoons the children will follow a topic based curriculum which will cover all aspects of Science, Religious Education, Art and Design, Design and Technology, Physical Education, History and Geography.



ENGLISH: All children in Year One follow the Read Write Inc. This phonics based programme has been written for schools wishing to adopt a cohesive approach to the teaching of Literacy. It is designed for children in Reception and Year One and is also appropriate for bilingual children with special needs in older year groups.

RWI is a phonics based programme with the main emphasis being reading. All the children in Year One have been assessed and placed in appropriate, levelled groups. This means that the children in Blue and White classes will be taught by a variety of people, not necessarily by their own class teacher, during the Literacy time in the morning. This programme has proved to be extremely successful at Grafton and we are confident that it will continue to be a success.

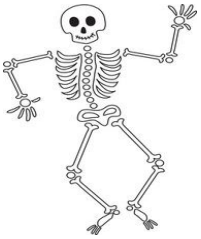
HOW YOU CAN HELP: You can help your child by asking them to find information in magazines, bus timetables, recipes, recipe cards and so on. **It is important that you listen to your child read daily - little but often is the best way - for 10 minutes every night.** The children's books will be changed 3 times a week. We ask that you make a short comment in their reading book after they have read with you. If no comment is made, a happy face or a star is also helpful to help us know that the children have read the book. If children are only just beginning to read, encourage them to talk about the pictures and identify the sounds that they know. As their reading develops they will be able to blend sounds into words and build up a sight vocabulary. As your child begins to read more complex books it is important to ask them lots of questions to ensure they have understood the text. Children should be taught to look after their book and bring their PATCH folder back every **Monday, Wednesday and Friday.**

ENGLISH WORKSHOP: We hold an English workshop every week to develop writing skills. The children will practice different forms of writing including poetry, non-fiction, lists and stories. All tasks are differentiated to support the variety of levels in the class. We also incorporate the 'Talk for Writing' <https://www.talk4writing.com/about/> scheme into our writing workshops. Through learning stories, the children will build up a bank of narrative patterns that will help them create their own stories. The stories are taught in a multi-sensory manner so actions are used to help make it fun. Activities such as puppets, role play, drama and acting out will help the children to bring the tale alive and make it memorable.



MATHS: All children in Year One will follow the 'Maths Mastery' programme. The children will be developing mathematical concepts and skills. The daily lesson structure includes a mental maths session, differentiated group activities and a plenary. Children will use objects and pictures to deepen their understanding of mathematical concepts. Every lesson includes opportunities for children to explain or justify their mathematical reasoning and problem solving.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Encourage your children to use maths on a daily basis and in real life situations, such as asking them to help you with your shopping e.g. counting items, looking at prices, using money or asking them to help calculate amounts. Point out numbers that you see around you such as bus numbers, house numbers, car registration numbers and so on. Encourage them to count items, add and subtract and say how many more/less. Ask them to identify shapes around them and cut food into halves and quarters.



SCIENCE: In Science the children will be looking at 'Animals, Including Humans' in the first term. Activities planned will include investigating our senses and changes in growth. An exciting new addition to the curriculum is learning about the seasons. This will be taught throughout the year and we will be going on educational visits to support the children's learning.



COMPUTING: Our computing lessons will take place in and around school. We will be focusing on Internet Safety, using resources from the Digiduck and Smartie the Penguin website. Talking regularly with your child is the greatest tool to help keep them safe online. Please remember to install parental controls on all internet controlled devices at home. We will be experimenting with a variety of digital technology including Beebots, cameras and Ipads. We will be using the classroom

laptops to enhance the children's learning across the curriculum, as well as develop their computing skills on Espresso and Busy Things.



R.E.: Our topic this term is 'How should we care for others and the world, and why does it matter?'. The children will be looking at our similarities and differences and learning about some of the rituals in major world faiths, as set out in Islington council's recommended RE syllabus. We will also be looking at naming ceremonies and how different faiths teach people to care for themselves.



TOPIC: Our topic for the first half term will be 'What's my History. We will be focusing on our family tree, time lines and making comparisons. Our topic for the second half term will be 'Our Local Area' We will be focusing on world geography through our topic. This is an extremely popular topic, as children will look at the geographical understanding of location/map. They learn about the different amenities and their purpose. In addition, October is Black History Month and the children will be celebrating by learning about the

inspirational historical figure: Ruby Bridges and Rosa Parks



P.E.: Physical Education will take place on Friday for Blue Class and Wednesday for White Class. We will be learning Games in the first half of the term and Gymnastics in the second. Children will need to wear trainers or plimsolls on these days. Please note that the school PE kit is a grey school t-shirt or sweatshirt and grey tracksuit trousers or shorts. **These can be purchased at the office.** Please send your child to school in their PE kit on the appropriate day.



About Me' topic.

ART: In Art this term we will be focusing on our visit to National Gallery and look at the 'Take One Picture'. The aim is to focus on a painting which is on display in the National Gallery, just one of the many wonderful art galleries that are free to visit in London. We will also be working on our observational skills to draw a range of animals from these drawings , As part of the DT curriculum we will continue to develop simple textiles - weaving skills, as part of our 'All



MUSIC: We are so lucky to have two specialist music teachers; Juwon and Norris. They will teach the children percussion, as well as singing. The children are always very enthusiastic about taking part in music sessions and will be developing musical skills and exploring different sounds. The children also have a weekly Singing Assembly with Juwon.

Parent And Teacher, Children and Helper Folders.

Please remember to bring your PATCH folder back to school regularly. It is really important that your child is heard every night for at least ten minutes, as Year One is critical in his/her reading development. Please try to write a comment in the PATCH book. This will not only encourage your child but assist the teacher when reading with them. The books are changed every **Monday, Wednesday and Friday.**



Snacks: We will provide your child with a biscuit or piece of fruit every day, for which we ask parents/carers to contribute £5 per term. This can be paid in a lump sum or in smaller, regular amounts to Michelle (Blue Class) and Tania (White).

Homework: We will give out homework once a week (Friday) using the English/Maths CGP books. This homework will help to reinforce what they have been learning in class that week. We would like the children to become familiar with the 100 High Frequency Words and be able to read them from sight. In addition, work with your child to create sentences using these words, both verbally and, if possible, written.

The beginning of the school day - Please make sure your child is ready to come into class at 9.00. It is important for all the children that we are able to start the day promptly. Our first session starts at 9.05 and will include Guided Reading and handwriting practice. These sessions are essential to the development of the children's writing and reading. This is also the time that your child's teacher will be reading with them.

The end of the school day - As you know White and Blue Class go home from the playground. If you are going to be late or are sending someone else to pick up your child, please call the school office to let us know.

Finally, if you have any concerns/queries about your child, please do not hesitate to speak to us at the end of the day or alternatively make an appointment for a longer chat at the office or with us.

Jennifer Buckley

White Class Teacher

Hibaaq Sheek

Blue Class Teacher

Andrew Turnock

Headteacher