



St John's Mead CEVC Primary School

Autumn Term 2016

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school! We hope you had a lovely summer break.

Our topic this autumn is '999', which will include the emergency services, road and fire safety and the Great Fire of London. Please share this topic with your child, discussing road safety when out and about, and fire safety in the home and around bonfires and fireworks. We are looking forward to visits from the police and fire service to start us off!

In English we will be focussing on stories involving the emergency services; recounts of events experienced; poetry about the seasons and we will be writing some instructions for Christmas craft activities. This term we are focusing on phonics and writing sentences. At home you can help your child by listening to them read regularly, sharing stories and practising key words and spellings – a spelling letter will follow shortly.

Your child will be changing their reading books every Monday and Friday. Please write the name of the book and the page that they have read up to in their reading record (if you have not written a page number we will assume that they have read to the end). Should you wish to write a comment in the reading record you are very welcome to, but you do not need to do this. If your child reads a book other than their school reading book at home this can also be recorded in their reading record and will help them to receive the special reading certificates even sooner! They get the Bronze Reading Award after 33 reads, Silver after 66 reads, Gold requires 99 reads, Platinum 132 reads, Diamond 165 reads, Amethyst 231 reads and the final reading award is 300 reads! We recommend listening to your child read every night at home because it makes a huge difference to their progress in this really important area.

In Maths we are working to improve our understanding of number and place value, adding and subtracting and shape. You can support your child by asking them to count forwards and backwards and to count groups of objects. We will also be introducing 'Number Clubs' starting with the 'More and Less Than Club'. This is a quick mental maths quiz where children are given 3 minutes to write the number that is one more or one less than a given number to 20. After they have completed the club correctly twice they receive a certificate and move on to the next Number Club.

In Science we will be finding out about ourselves and looking at seasonal changes. We will also be investigating 'light and dark' in term 2. Our RE is focussed around spiritual development through stories, with our PSHE (personal, social and health education) considering new beginnings and how to get on with each other.

The children are welcome to bring in any additional information, artefacts or pictures that link to the topics to share with the class.

PE is on Mondays and Wednesdays. Please ensure that your child has a labelled PE kit, including something suitable for colder weather and daps or trainers. If your child wears earrings please make sure they are removed for PE days and long hair must be tied back.

Now that your child is in Year One they may, if you choose, purchase toast to eat during morning break. This costs 10p a slice and we expect the children to look after the money themselves. Correct change is appreciated. Fruit will still be provided free of charge to all Key Stage 1 children during break time.

Our library day is Friday. Please ensure your child has their book on that day so that they can be changed.

If any parents or grandparents would like to help by listening to children read or coming in occasionally to support children with, for example, art or DT projects, please let us know. We would greatly appreciate any support.

We have really enjoyed starting to get to know your child and are excited about teaching them this year. If you have queries about any matter concerning your child, please do not hesitate to speak to us.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Carver and Mrs Bufton