



**Baslow St. Anne's C.of.E Primary School**  
Life in all its fullness  
Growing healthy minds and hearts together  
Kindness ... Respect ... Diversity



## Welcome to Year 1 (Tigers) Spring 2026



### Bright Lights Big City!



Dear Year 1 Parents,

Welcome back after your Christmas break, we hope you have all had a fun time, even if not very restfull!! We would like to thank you again for all your support with your children especially in helping them practise their phonics, Tricky Words and reading, also in helping them with their weekly spellings. They will have an ILP (Independent Learning Project) to be set early this term and brought back before Easter, this is an opportunity for them to share their new topic with you at home (details to follow shortly).

This parent pamphlet comes at the beginning of a new topic giving you a topic overview and providing some important reminders for that term. This topic lasts over the full Spring term from January to the end of March.

We know that by continuing to work together we will be able to make this term another happy and productive one for your child with plenty of engaging and challenging activities and experiences on offer. As always we are keen to ensure that every child reaches their potential and makes the best possible progress within all areas of their learning.

This term our topic is 'Bright Lights, Big City'. It is a geography based topic which allows the children to explore their world both near and far and to begin to understand how places can be similar and different. We will start by finding out more about our own country and how it is made up of four countries, we will look at identifying the capital cities for each of these and the three main seas surrounding us before heading off to explore India. We will be finding out where these countries are and what it is like in them, in terms of the weather, plants and animals to be found there and begin to look at the similarities and differences found. We will look back at one of our countries historical events 'The Great Fire of London' and find out a bit about what happened and how we know about something that happened such a long time ago. We will also continue to explore our seasons (Winter and Spring) and the effect these have on us and our world. We will also be looking at and taking part in some of the various festivals and celebrations happening over the next three months, including the Christian celebration of Easter.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to ask. Thank you in advance for all your help, we look forward to another happy and productive term for you and your child.

Mrs Whitfield and the Tiger Team

# Some Important Reminders for the Spring Term



**Start of the day:** - Year 1 children in Tigers should come into the classroom through the sliding doors just as they did as an EYFS but now they can come in on their own, do encourage that independence but don't worry if there are days they need a little more support. Tiger door opens at 8.40am. If you have an urgent query please pop in and have a quick word with either myself, Miss Pettett or Mrs Beardshaw. Any non-urgent enquiries can be written down in the home/school diary, sent by class dojo or emailed to me ([tigers@st-annescofe.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:tigers@st-annescofe.derbyshire.sch.uk))

**End of the day:** - The school day finishes at 3.15pm you collect your child from Tiger's playground, we ensure the children go out one at a time to their known adult. If your child is going home with anyone different please do inform us in the morning or if it is going to be a long-standing arrangement (e.g. 623 (after school club)) let us know so we can make a note. If you wish to have a quick a chat after school just wait until all the children have left and then do ask me.

**Uniform and coats:** - As with everything they bring to school it should be **NAMED**. Please ensure children bring a **suitable** coat to school every day, even if the weather appears warm and sunny. Derbyshire weather is unpredictable! Year 1 children do not need a **PE bag** instead please come wearing outdoor PE clothes on a Thursday and Friday. (Plain black tracksuit bottoms/ shorts, red t-shirt + red sweatshirt, black trainers (don't forget to check the weather!))

**Book Bags:** Please do check your child's book bag every day for notes or letters. **Please ensure your child brings their book bag (with their diary and reading book in - unless we tell you differently) to school every day.** Please sign their Home/School Reading diary to indicate you have read with your child and this helps us know if a book needs changing, remember you can keep the book for longer if you wish. We check all the bags daily. Further information about reading will have already been given to you.

**Reading:** - The children are all making good progress and we aim to keep you informed of their progress by writing in their diaries or will see you individually if needed. Please remember just come and see me if you have any questions.

**Open Door:** **Monday and Thursday** 3.15 - 3.45, when you or your child's carer are welcome to come in and share your child's work with them. If this day isn't possible for you I can always sort out an alternative time. This is still an important sharing time for your child so please do pop in when you can.

**Show and Tell:** Tuesday. A great opportunity for your child to practice their speaking and listening skills. Your child is very welcome to bring in something to share from home if they wish and we will be continuing with the home teddy tiger puppets and journal.

**Homework:** Alongside daily reading, Year 1 children have weekly spellings to learn. A sheet with that week's spellings will come home on a Friday ready for testing the following Friday. If you would like any help on how to do this, please just ask. In the spring term Year 1 children will also be given an ILP (Independent Learning Project) to complete at home, further information on this will come home soon.

**THANK YOU** 😊



This term's topic is "Bright Lights, Big City!", the main focus is geography, however we incorporate many other areas of the curriculum in order to make it fun and engaging for the children

The following will give you a flavour of what is to come for your child this term. Many other learning opportunities will be taking place - do ask if you have any questions.



## English

In English we will be continuing to work on the children's writing targets of thinking about their ideas, verbally forming a sentence and then writing it using finger spaces, their sounds and tricky words and introducing capital letters and full stops in order to have correctly punctuated sentences. There will be a large focus on correctly formed letters (capitals and lowercase including size and position). We will be writing about their weekend news, our topic and using books such as *The Tiger Child* and *Jack and the Beanstalk* as a stimulus. The children will continue with their phonics, recapping the di and trigraphs from phase 3 (including applying these in blending and segmenting to read and write words), split digraphs and adjacent consonants of phase 4. They will continue to work on phase 5 – alternative sounds eg. igh (sigh) ie (tie) y (fly). I will provide a sheet to be kept in their sound wallet with examples of all these phases so you can encourage them to read through, find in their reading and even use in their writing at home. They will continue on their individual journey through our reading scheme and we thank you in advance for listening to them read every day at home – it makes a huge difference. You will also have 2 key rings in their book bags with ideas on questions you can ask them when reading fiction and non-fiction books – this all aids their comprehension and ability to understand what is being read alongside their decoding skills.

## Maths

In Maths we will be counting to 100 both forwards and backwards in steps of 1,2,5 and 10. We will read and write numbers to 20 in words. Read, write and interpret mathematical statements involving addition (+) subtraction (-) and equals (=) signs. Know how to find double a given number. Add and subtract 1 digit and 2 digit numbers to 20. We will continue to explore the language of measures including length, height and time.

## Topic (History, Geography, Art, DT)

Our topic work will encompass a range of skills linked to geography and art/DT. We will learn where in the world we live, identify the UK and 4 countries that make it up, including their capital cities. We will also learn to identify the 3 seas around the UK. We will begin to discover information about London and its famous landmarks and where in the world it is. We will also find out where in the world India is and explore some of its physical features, the animals, homes, schools, clothes, food and religions. We will begin to explore the similarities and differences between these 2 countries. We will also look at a famous historical event in our country 'The Great Fire of London', finding out about Samuel Pepys and how important he was in us knowing about this event. We will be looking at famous artists and then exploring sculpture and will make an animal sculpture to take home.

## Science

Our science focuses on the seasons of Winter and Spring and how the weather changes over these seasons and how this affects what we wear and do, also how plants and animals are affected. We will learn to name common plants and to be able to identify and name the basic structure of common flowering plants including trees.

## ICT

We will continue to discuss the importance of online safety with the children. They will learn to correctly turn on and off the computers and how to use and save a word document.

## Music

This term the children will be exploring pitch, sound and beat linked to our topic. They will learn songs for the Easter Service and other seasonal songs.

## PSHE

The children will continue to follow the Jigsaw scheme which is aimed at developing the children's mindfulness alongside learning emotional literacy, social skills and spiritual development. They will continue to work with the Kapow scheme and the focus for this term is "Citizenship" and "Health and Well Being". These link with our work on rules and consequences, caring for others and exploring similarities and differences and an introduction to democracy. We will also focus on the importance of a healthy body and mind through cleanliness, healthy eating and mindfulness.

## PE

The children will work with EYFS in exploring gymnastic actions and creating and performing a short sequence. They will also work with bean bags – throwing, catching and using in competitive games.

## RE

We will begin to understand about who is Jewish and how do they live? We will be learning about Jesus and salvation, as well as exploring what Christians believe about Easter and the significance of the cross. We will also talk about the many other religions and beliefs that people have in the world, including learning about Chinese New Year, Holi amongst others.



## Ideas of activities to help your Year 1 at home Spring Term

Don't forget to check the targets and ideas for activities given to you at the beginning of Spring 1 term.

1. Try to listen to your child read every day - 10 minutes daily is much better than one or two longer sessions. Find a quiet and comfortable place to share the books.
2. Talk about the book - use the comprehension key rings in your child's plastic wallet for ideas. Ask questions which encourage your child to give their opinions about events and characters in the book - again see the comprehension key ring for ideas.
3. Practice counting every day. By the end of Year 1 children should be able to count to 100 in 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s.
4. Look out for simple 2D and 3D shapes around you, encourage your child to recognise, name and talk about their properties.
5. Ask your child about the topics we are doing at school and what they have been learning about -I am hoping you will get the chance to share last terms topic book with your child - details to follow. With regard our new topic do you or your family know anything about this they could share?
6. Encourage your child to be independent in getting dressed and undressed and in doing a range of fastenings e.g. buckles, zips, buttons, tying shoe laces.
7. Remember school will still be very tiring!! Make sure your child gets enough sleep, keep those bedtime and morning time routines going and don't overdo the weekly nightlife! Children who have plenty of rest, downtime and good routines are more likely to have productive and happy days at school.

As always - any queries or questions or if you just want a chat! Please email or arrange to see me - we are very happy to help.

**POSITIVE PRAISE – ENCOURAGEMENT – GROWTH MINDSET – RESILIENCE – PERSERVERANCE**

### **Attendance and Punctuality**

Please ensure your child is on-time for school every day, doors open at 8.40am. Good attendance is also important and has a direct effect on learning. Children should not take time off unless absolutely necessary.