16th January 2024 

Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a lovely and restful Christmas and New Year with your families.

Below you will find an outline of the curriculum areas we will be covering up until Easter. This information should assist with your child’s home studies, extending and enhancing their learning in the following areas.

**English:**

**Reading:**

Reading remains a vital aspect of your child’s education. It becomes very evident in children’s writing when they read regularly. Thus, to best support your child, **please ensure they read at home every evening.** This can be from a variety of texts including news articles and picture books.

Your child has been issued with a reading folder, a ‘free reader/reading for pleasure’ book that they will independently choose from the class library, as well as 1 or 2 levelled reading books. In addition, they take home their yellow Reading Record which will have a list of recommended reading books inside. I kindly ask if you could listen to your child read and sign these Reading Records regularly (**at least three times every week**). Listening to your child read and asking questions will support their comprehension and retrieval skills and progress can only be made with this invaluable parental support.

These records will be checked **every Friday.** **Folders must be brought in** **everyday** and new books will be issued each week.

**Shared Texts in Class:** The children will read and study a variety of texts from a range of genres including fiction and non-fiction.

**Guided Reading:**

There will be regular guided reading lessons where a text is discussed and reading skills are developed.

**Writing:**

Children will be given the opportunity to develop their own creative writing and evaluate their own work. We will continue to work on basic skills, which will include regular handwriting practice, work on phonics, spellings and vocabulary as well as working on grammar and punctuation.

Children will learn how to write sentences using their writing rules to support (think it, say it, write and read it). They will use images to support their writing in order to tell stories and will re-read what they have written to check it makes sense. They will discuss and evaluate their own work with their peers and myself. Children will write for different purposes as well as learn how to plan their writing by either discussing their ideas or noting down key words.

**Phonics:**

Children will continue to receive daily phonic lessons using the Essential Letters and Sounds Phonics Programme (ELS). We use a simple, consistent approach to teaching phonics. Your child will experience the same classroom routines within each lesson which reduces cognitive load and maximises the chances of success. **Review, Teach, Practise, Apply, Review.** All children are supported within the lesson, and throughout the day, to use their new phonic knowledge independently. In every single ELS lesson, your child will make the direct application to reading in order for them to read well quickly.

**Spellings:**

Children will be given weekly spellings to learn and practise at home in preparation for a spelling quiz on Friday.

**Maths:**

The topics we will be covering this term are:

Time: •Read, write and tell the time to o’clock and half past on analogue clock •Sequencing daily activities •Whole and half turns linked to time.

Exploring Calculation Strategies within 20: Model, explain and choose addition and subtraction strategies

Numbers to 50: •2-digit numbers – represent, sequence, explore, compare. •Count in 2s, 5s and 10s •Describe and complete number patterns

Addition and Subtraction within 20: •Illustrate, explain and link addition and subtraction with equations •Apply ‘Make Ten’ strategy •Use language to quantify and compare difference

Fractions: •Identify ½ and ¼ of a shape or object •Find ½ and ¼ of a quantity

Measures (Length and Mass): •Compare and measure lengths and mass using cm and kg •Doubling and halving.

**Science:**

This term, children will be exploring Animals including Humans. By the end of the spring term, they will: Explain some of the changes that occur in humans from when they are born. Describe some of the characteristics that occur as humans get older. Identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. Describe the importance for humans of exercise, eating the right amounts of different types of food, and hygiene humans.

**RE:**

The three topics for this term are: **Special People, Meals and Change.**

The Wednesday Word is also available online each week. Please spend some time sharing it with your child and discussing the Gospel of that Sunday and its message for us.

**Geography**

This term we will be learning about Earth and Space in Geography. Here are some of the questions that we will be exploring: What are some geographical features on earth? What are natural and manmade features on earth? What is the solar system? What are the physical features of planets in the solar system? Who was Neil Armstrong? What does my planet look like?

**History**

Our history topic this spring term is Castles and Knights. We will be exploring the following questions: What are castles? What are the parts of a castle? What would be on your Coat of Arms? Where are some castles in the United Kingdom? What clothes did the King and Queen wear? What was life like for a king or queen?

**Art:**

This half term we will be exploring paintings of children, exploring what paintings can tell us about the past and looking at how art can give us messages.

**Design and Technology:**

During the second part of the term, year one will focus on Food and Nutrition. Children will explore healthy foods and plan, create and evaluate a fruit salad.

**Computing:**

This term we will be learning about: Programming Devices: Giving instructions-making toast. Information technology: Creating an avatar and an image - design a plate. Information technology: Using technology to sort objects into groups and for graphing.

**Music:**

In “Exploring Pitch 1: High and Low”, Year 1 learners delve into pitch exploration, specifically differentiating between high and low pitches. This unit aligns with the curriculum's objective of introducing pitch concepts. Students begin to develop their pitch recognition abilities, setting the stage for more intricate pitch-related activities, such as singing and playing melodies in subsequent years. The early forms of dot notation will be used with symbols of the song. This unit introduces the term pitch for the first time, as well as the singing names and the hand signs in more detail. We also present the term ostinato and allow the children to practise simple rhythmic ostinato alongside the core songs. The term rhythm from the previous units will also be reinforced again. Pupils will be able to differentiate between high and low sounds in familiar songs and everyday sounds, sing simple songs with a small pitch range, accurately hit pitches like mi-so, and explore basic pitch notation symbols and their association with pitch.

**PSHE & RSE:**

Children will explore the topic of Emotional Wellbeing. They will gain a religious understanding of being created to live in a community and well as living in the wider world. Children will look at the importance of respecting others, even when they are very different from them (for example, physically, in character, personality or backgrounds), or make different choices or have different preferences or beliefs. They will also learn about their own mental wellbeing, feeling and being safe as well as having caring friendships. Children will also explore the topic of ‘Keeping Safe’ during the second half term.

**PE:**

This half term, children will take part in dance and gymnastics on Wednesday afternoons. The children will be expected to arrive in school on the day of their PE sessions in their full St Charles PE kit; which is a St Charles/plain white t-shirt, navy shorts/bottoms and trainers. Children are **NOT** to wear football kits. After half term, the children will take part in gymnastic sessions, where again, the children will be required to wear their full St. Charles PE kit. Please ensure your child has a bottle of water.

**Stationery and Uniform:**

It is helpful for your child to have a pencil case containing the following equipment: pencil, rubber, sharpener, coloured pencils, ruler and 1 glue stick. Please ensure full school uniform is always worn and is **clearly labelled** with your child’s name as well as any equipment your child may bring in, including water bottles.

**Collection and Home Time:**

Regarding children being collected, please ensure you have called the office or notified the teacher if there is somebody different due to collect your child. We will not be able to dismiss your child for child protection reasons without this information.

**Homework:**

Children will usually be set formal homework twice a week as follows:

* Spellings on a Monday to be tested on Friday, Please ensure your child brings their folder and red spelling book to school every Friday so that books and spellings can be updated. Advice for completing spelling homework will be outlined on the inside cover of your child’s red spelling book.
* English/Grammar and maths on a Friday to be completed by the following Friday.

The children will continue to receive upcoming phonemes and Harder to Read and Spell Words for phonics prior to their learning. Please read these with your child to prepare them for their lessons.

If you do have any concerns, please do contact me and we can arrange a time to speak. You can reach me at

[class1d@st-charles.rbkc.sch.uk](mailto:class1d@st-charles.rbkc.sch.uk)

This email address is not for informing the school of absence; the main office must be contacted in that instance. Please remember that as I am in class teaching during the day, I may not be able to reply instantly, but will get back to you as soon as possible. If you have an urgent concern, please phone the school directly on 020-8969-5566.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and your child this term.

Best wishes

Ms. Denis

Year 1 Class Teacher

