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7th September 2017

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to school - we hope you have all had a lovely, relaxing summer holiday. The children have come back full of energy and enthusiasm and look very smart in their Castle Park School uniform. As customary, we would like to outline the topics and activities we will be covering this half term so that you can have an involvement in your child's learning - as you can see we have a busy and exciting half term! We are always delighted when your child wants to bring in a book or artefact that links to our topics, but politely request that no personal toys are brought into school.

We look forward to working with you in the year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Bond and Mrs Clement

<p>English</p> 	<p>During our English lessons, we will be focusing on writing simple words and sentences. The children will be encouraged to talk about and verbalise their sentences first, before working in small supported groups to write them remembering capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. In Year 1, we will have daily phonics sessions. The children will revise the letters of the alphabet, whilst also learning new digraphs such as ch, sh and th. Our phonics sessions focus on practising reading and writing skills, in a fun and interactive way. Finally, the children will have weekly, small group guided reading sessions with an adult, with books being sent home to practise.</p>
<p>Mathematics</p> 	<p>In Year 1 maths lessons, we will focus largely on number to 10 for the first few weeks. The children will practise recognising numbers, counting amounts accurately, working out one more and one less than a given number and counting forwards and backwards from different starting points. We will also begin our 'Big Maths', by learning and trying to remember the first steps of our 'Learn It's' e.g. 3+3 and 5+5.</p>



<p>Science</p> 	<p>In science, this half term, we will be starting our ongoing topic exploring seasonal changes. Each class will be creating a Seasons table and we welcome any objects of interest relating to Autumn. Our main science topic this half term is entitled "Ourselves" and "Our Senses". The children will be identifying and labelling different parts of the body, and carrying out lots of practical investigations on their five senses. We will be thinking of how to keep ourselves fit and healthy.</p>
<p>ICT and Computing</p> 	<p>In our computing sessions the children will be developing their typing and word processing skills using Microsoft Word. We will explore how to change font, colour and size of text and learn about the functions of keys on the keyboard, such as the backspace and return keys. The children will also be using software to help them collect data and draw simple graphs.</p>
<p>History</p> 	<p>In our history unit this half term, pupils will be learning how to order life events chronologically, and think about changes that have happened to them over time. The children will be thinking about their own family tree, and learning about how their childhoods are different from that of their grandparents.</p>
<p>Geography</p> 	<p>As a whole school we are learning about a different continent every term. This term, the focus will be on countries in North and South America. Key Stage One children will be learning all about Cuba and learning about some of the exciting sounds, rhythms and tastes from that country. We also have some exciting visitors coming into school to give the children some first-hand experiences.</p>
<p>Art and Design Technology</p> 	<p>Our artwork, this half term, will be linked to our topics and the children will have the opportunity to use a range of materials such as paint, clay and textiles to create a range of pictures and models. We will be looking at a variety of self portraits by famous artists and the children will have a go at drawing their own portraits.</p>

<p>Music</p> 	<p>In our weekly singing session in Key Stage One, the children will be learning songs about starting back at school, autumnal changes and songs that reinforce personal and social aspects of learning. We will be following the Charanga music programme, and our unit is called "Hands, feet and heart". The children will be using their bodies to make sounds, e.g. clapping, whistling and stamping.</p>
<p>PE</p> 	<p>The children have one indoor and one outdoor P.E. session each week. This year the sessions will take place on Monday and Friday afternoons. The indoor session will focus on dance, and also the development of strength, suppleness and stamina through a range of fun activities. The outdoor session will focus on passing and receiving, an object such as a ball, using hands, feet, bats and hockey sticks.</p>
<p>RE</p> 	<p>This half term we will be exploring the theme of belonging. The children will think about all the groups they belong to on a personal and global scale, and think about what it means to belong. We will make links with belonging to a church and think about how a sense of belonging makes us feel.</p>
<p>Global Awareness</p> 	<p>Our Global Awareness curriculum will focus on valuing similarities and differences in people from different cultures and learning about lifestyles, traditions and customs that are unfamiliar to us.</p>
<p>Citizenship</p> 	<p>Our citizenship sessions will focus on settling back to school and remembering the school rules. The children will also be thinking and talking about issues surrounding friendships. Our school value that we are focussing on this term is that of "Resilience".</p>
<p>Homework Ideas</p> 	<p>Here are some ideas to support your child at home:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily reading (school books or home books) • Writing (stories, diaries, practising handwriting,) • Cooking (reading instructions, weighing and measuring) • Looking at maps and finding out about different countries. • Going for a walk and looking for signs of Autumn.