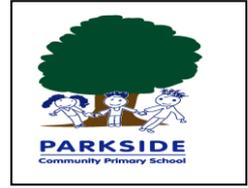




**PARKSIDE COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**SQUIRREL CLASS LETTER**  
**TERMS 1 & 2**



DATE: 04/09/20

Dear Parents/Carers, welcome back! I would just like to say how wonderful it is to see the Year 1 children settled and happy and how excited we are to meet the Year R children on Monday. We are all really looking forward to a busy term ahead of us in Squirrel Class. We are working hard settling in; establishing new routines and classroom expectations. Please support us by encouraging your child to treat toys gently, tidy away, share and take turns and to dress and undress independently. It really helps to develop their roles and responsibilities in class and build self-confidence and independence.

Term 1 topic is '**Dinosaur Planet!**' We will be making lots of new friend's; learning to be kind and helpful, as well as exploring our similarities and differences. We will focus on our wellbeing using the wonderful picture book 'Worrysaurus.' Our topic 'WOW' will be making dinosaur fossils and planetology. Our key text is the wonderful picture book 'Dinosaurs Love Underpants' by Claire Freedman.

**Curriculum focus:**

**Phonics:** Year R: Phase 1-2 (environmental sounds and sound discrimination, rhyming and letter formation). Year 1: Recapping Phase 2 and Phase 3 (letter formation, blending sounds for reading and segmenting sounds for spelling.) We will be introducing spelling books for Year 1 children to learn to read and spell and send home spelling sheets for Year R.

**Maths:** Year R: Place Value to 5 (count to 5 saying the name in a stable order, forwards and backwards). Year 1: Place Value to 10 (count to ten, forwards and backwards, beginning with 0 or 1, or from any given number, read and write numbers to 10 in numerals and words).

**Science:**

Plants (please send in garden bulbs for the children to plant around the outside area) and to use their observation skills.

Term 2 Topic is '**Enchanted Woodland.**' Our 'WOW' trip will be exploring the wooded areas around our school. Our key text will be the traditional fairy tale 'The Frog Prince' and will focus on character descriptions.

**Curriculum focus:**

**Phonics:** Year R: Phase 2/3 (letter formation, blending sounds for reading and segmenting sounds for spelling.) Year 1: Recapping phase 3/4 (4-6 weeks) and Phase 5 Letters and Sounds. Phase 4 focuses on reading and writing words containing two adjacent consonants. We will be continuing with our spelling focus for children to learn at home.

**Maths:** Year R: Addition and Subtraction – Sorting (Children learn that sets of objects can be sorted into attributes such as colour, size or shape). Number and Place Value –Time (They compare non-identical objects by linking names of number, numerals their value and their position in counting order). Year 1: Recognise and name common 2-D and 3-D shapes. Place Value to 20 (Count to twenty, forwards and backwards, beginning with 0 or 1, from any given number; count, read and write numbers to 20 in numerals and words and solve one step problems.

**Science:**

Seasonal Change. We will be investigating woodland areas and habitats and creating leaf sculptures using the beautiful picture book 'Leafman.'

PE will take place twice a week and is on Monday and Thursday.

Please ensure your child comes into school dressed in their PE kit as we will not be changing in class. Please ensure that your child has **jewellery removed (especially earrings).**



Squirrel Class are looking forward to achieving their first 100% Attendance Certificate for this academic term. To achieve this, we require all children to be in school every day.

It really is essential that children are regular attenders as low attendance has a huge impact on a child's learning. Given that the current Y1 children have lost a large proportion of the last academic year - it is even more important that your child attends school regularly. With this in mind, please ensure that your child is in school by 8.40am to start promptly at 8.50am each day as late arrivals have an impact on your child and the rest of the class. Thank you.

We take PRIDE in our school and uniform so please ensure that your child comes to school each day wearing the correct uniform. The school logo on jumpers is a reminder to children that they are all part of the Parkside Community so please remember to purchase them from the school office if you haven't already. Also, a quick reminder that children need to wear appropriate weather proof shoes, not pumps or trainers and please no shoes with laces unless they are able to tie them themselves.

### Golden Rules

Gentle hands and feet.

Really listen carefully without interrupting.

Expect to work hard.

Always tell the truth and be a good friend.

Treat resources with respect and tidy away.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September – Jeans for Genes (50p) donation.

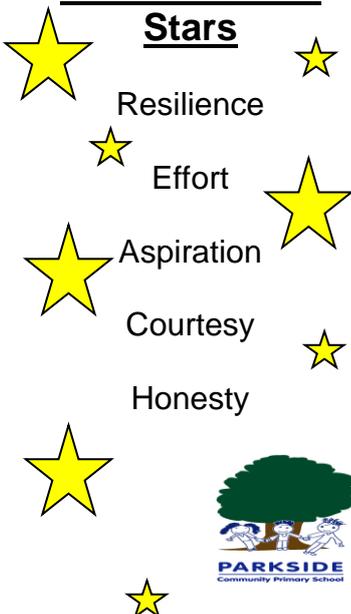
McMillian Coffee morning: 25<sup>th</sup> September (Please send cakes into Squirrel Class on the morning).

Your child will bring photocopied sheets from their school reading book home. Please read these together with your child each night to help them build their phonic knowledge and skills. Young children need short, daily practise to help build their reading fluency and decoding skills.

Please support your child by listening to them read every day for 10 minutes. Talk about the story and characters and use 'book talk' as much as possible.

After reading, please sign your child's reading record and please send in the reading file daily. Finally, please help your child practise reading and spelling the high frequency words we send home.

### REACH for the Stars



Children in Squirrel Class are given fruit at snack time so there is no need to send in additional snacks unless they have a specific dietary requirement that the school is aware of.

Packed lunches should consist of a sandwich (cheese or ham), low sugar drink, yogurt and at least two pieces of fruit.

Biscuits and chocolate are sugary treats which are best enjoyed at home as they can impact on a child's behaviour.

**REMINDERS:** If you have arranged for another person to collect your child from school then please remember to let us know. We will **NOT** release a child to an adult unless we have your permission to do so!

**Water bottles can be sent in daily but they must only contain WATER and be taken home each evening to be thoroughly washed and returned.**