**Windmill Hill Academy**

****

**KS1** (Year 1 and 2)

**2018 - 2019**

**Information for Parents/Carers**

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are delighted to have your child with us in either Year One or Year Two. We look forward to the year ahead and the exciting learning opportunities that we have planned.

Key Stage One (including Year F) work closely as a team to ensure there is a smooth transition throughout the key stage.

We endeavour to keep parents informed so please do take the time to read the following information. You will receive a termly list of Key Stage One dates. In addition, during the course of the year, you will and can receive updates in the form of letters, newsletters, social media sites (Twitter and Facebook) and text messages but also please take a look at our website.

Curriculum

We strive to ensure that the children receive a broad and balanced curriculum that includes plenty of exciting learning opportunities to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills. The enclosed project overview will give you a picture of the learning planned for this half term. The project for Year One and Two is ‘Shiver Me Timbers’. You will receive a project overview each half term for the current project. The children in Key Stage One will be taught Maths, Reading and Writing appropriate to the abilities in their own class. Children will also have daily handwriting lessons using the school’s cursive handwriting scheme.

Phonics/Spelling

Phonics/spelling will be taught on a daily basis in ability groups. The emphasis will be on applying their phonic knowledge in reading and writing.

Assessment

We will report your child’s progress using the ‘Assessment without levels’ system. The expectation is that the majority of children should be working at the ‘expected’ standard for their current year group by the end of the year. Please see attached ‘End of Year expectations for Year 1/2’ documents for more information. You will be notified of your child’s progress during the Autumn and Spring term Parents’ meetings and on your child’s end of year report.

Children in Year Two will complete Special Work (SATs) during the month of May. It is important to remember that all of their work contributes to their overall result and not just the test. We do our best to make the children feel at ease during this time and just concentrate on doing their best. Children in Year One will be taking part in an individual Phonics Screening Check during June. This will also include children in Year Two who did not pass it in Year One. We appreciate your child’s full attendance during these times.

Class Rules

As a school, we follow the R time rules. They are: show good manners at all times, follow instructions with thought and care and care for everyone and everything. Children will be rewarded in various ways including team points, stickers and certificates presented in assembly.

Visible Learning

One area that we will be keeping you informed about this year is our Visible Learning work. Staff are taking part in training at the moment which will help to develop pupil’s understanding of their own learning and of how to become more efficient learners. So, if your child comes home and tells you they have been in ‘The Learning Pit,’ don’t panic, it is all part of their learning. Maybe you could ask them about it although please remember that they are in the early stages of this process so are just starting out on the journey.

Class Enrichments

The children in Key Stage One will be engaged in enrichment activities this year in order to support their learning. Each term, the Key Stage One team will plan opportunities that best match the learning in the classroom. This may include: enrichment days and trips. In order for trips to take place, we really appreciate and value parent help.

Homework

**Reading Maths and Phonics/Spelling**

We encourage you to support your child daily with their reading and their phonics. Please do make a comment in your child’s reading record as this is very valuable to us. Here are some examples of the sorts of comments you may make:

- Wonderful! John made extremely good attempts at sounding out unfamiliar words.

- Anne really enjoyed this book set by the sea. It reminded her of the Lighthouse Keeper books which we have read at home.

- Particularly enjoyed reading this book and looking at the illustrations.

- John has read more books by the same author at home.

- Very little help needed today. Remembered many of the letter sounds and read lots of words independently.

- It was such a pleasure to listen to Jane read. She was able to identify and read the words independently.

- He spotted a full stop!

- Fluent and confident, showing enthusiasm and enjoyment.

- Confused "b" and "d" sounds at the beginning of the word "dig" but self-corrected when read within the context of the sentence.

You will notice that your child has a sheet of questions (age-appropriate) on labels in the back of their reading record. In addition to the comments made above in regards to decoding and fluency, we want to develop comprehension. Therefore, we encourage you/your child to regularly (once/twice a week) choose a question, stick it in the next available space in the reading record, discuss it and for you/your child to write an answer.

Children will continue to have access to Sound/Spelling Packs, to support them with their phonics/spelling learning at home. The activities and games are linked to phonics/spelling play and the age appropriate phonics/spelling. Your child has access to this great website as well as Bug Club EBooks. The login details for both websites can be found in your child’s reading record. There will also be weekly spellings, which is on a separate sheet in their homework books.

Sound packs will be changed on a fortnightly basis. You are encouraged to make a note/comment in your child’s homework book on how they got on with the Sound pack. Please make sure all packs are returned as you were given them, e.g. equipment included, wiped clean etc.

All children now have access to MyMaths so they have the opportunity to complete maths activities which are set each week. Login details can be found in your child’s reading record. We will be no longer sending home Maths packs in Year 1 and 2 as they have access to MyMaths. However, if you are unable to access this website at home, Maths packs are available for you to take home. Please ask a member of staff in your child’s class if you require them. We will be introducing an Around the World Maths Challenge to help the children learn their times tables which is explained on a separate sheet in their homework books.

**Project Activities**

Your child has the opportunity to complete activities linked to their current project, if they wish. You will find a homework menu in their homework book at the start of each half term. It is also listed on the school website for your reference. You will be invited in towards the end of each project to celebrate the learning that has taken place. The dates and times for these projects showcases are on the homework sheet and on the Key Stage One term dates sheet.

PE

Please can you ensure your child has their PE kit at all times. All items, including the bag, need to be labelled.In Year One, PE days are Mondays (swimming) and Tuesdays. In Year Two, PE days are Wednesdays and Thursdays (Wild Tribe). These may change each half term.

Year One will be swimming on Monday afternoons for the first half term in Autumn and Spring. Year Two will then swim on Monday afternoons in the second half term of Autumn and Spring.

Wild Tribe

Throughout the year, there will be opportunities for Wild Tribe activities but there will be regular sessions for each year group at different times of the year. These sessions will take place on the first half term of the Autumn term for Year 2 and we will notify you when they will be for Year 1. During these times, please make sure your child has a set of old clothes, a waterproof coat and a pair of wellies.

# Beginning/End of the Day

Please may we remind parents that the children in Year One and Two are encouraged to come into school in the mornings with their class. Adults in school are able to support children with their belongings, although we do encourage children to be independent with their items. If you need to speak with an adult for an urgent reason in the morning, please speak to the Office staff, inform the staff on duty in the playground or address a note to your child’s class teacher. There is a member of the team available to speak to you at the end of the day. However,if you feel the need to have a more in depth meeting please make an appointment to see us. We will have opportunity through parents’ consultation meetings to discuss in more depth your child’s learning and progress in school.

Opportunities to visit the School

We will be holding many opportunities for parents to come into school to see their child’s learning. These events will be sent to you in advance, be listed on our school website and a text reminder sent.

Volunteering your time

We would be so grateful if you are able to offer some of your time to support with various learning experiences including listening to children read, assisting with trips, Wild Tribe or helping with swimming including walking to and from the Leisure Centre. If you are able to help with some of these, please could you let us know.

Kind Regards,

The Key Stage One Team

**The KS1 team**

*Year One*

Mrs Carter: Class Teacher

Mrs Baker: Higher Level Teaching Assistant

*Year Two*

Miss Pearce: Class Teacher

Mrs Haisman: Learning Support Assistant