

Welcome back to a new school year and welcome to Year 1. I hope you all enjoyed the summer holidays and are ready for the year ahead. We are looking forward to continuing to get to know you and working together. The children are settling very well into their new classroom and are getting used to new classroom routines.

Literacy

This term we will be looking at a range of stories with predictable phrasing and stories reflecting children's own experiences. We always start the year with a whole school text, this allows Longlands to experience the same book and complete a range of interesting writing opportunities related. This term we will be reading a mixture of narratives, poetry and lists. We will be learning how to write sentences, using a capital letter and full stop. We will be doing daily Little Wandle phonics lessons and catch up sessions for children who need it. In addition to this, your child will bring home a reading book to share with an adult. Your help in supporting us by listening to your child read this book and talking about it with them on a regular basis will be invaluable. We welcome any comment in the school reading record or a simple signature to let us know that you have shared the book with your child. Please ensure that your child's reading book and reading record come into school every day.

Maths

For the first few weeks we will be doing lots of practical work, focusing on number and counting, which will form the foundation of all future maths work. This will be followed by work on addition and then subtraction and using different methods to solve problems. We will focus on using number facts and building up a range of ways to use mental maths to help solve problems. We teach 'HFL Maths Essentials' Maths Scheme, along with daily maths mastery sessions to build children's confidence, fluency and encourage a deep understanding of numbers. We will work with a range of manipulatives to support the children with solving sums practically and becoming confident to choose an appropriate method. There will be an emphasis on helping children to learn and recall number facts as well as enabling children to recognise different ways of making a target number. We will be working with Numicon and this would be useful for you to practise at home with your child to make them familiar with the shapes.

Computing

In computing, we will be using Chromebooks. This will be the first time the children will be using chromebooks in school so we will do lots of practice turning on the chromebooks, logging into the chromebook and then logging into Purple Mash using their individual username and password. Then we will move onto navigating Purple Mash and then eventually the children will complete tasks set by myself which are called 2Dos. I will print and send home a copy of their Purple Mash username and password, they are able to explore and use Purple Mash at home on a phone, tablet, laptop or desktop, this will support their confidence in accessing Purple Mash at school.

Art

We will be looking at self portraits, this includes: exploring art by famous artists, creating our own self portraits, looking at the key features needed and exploring colour. After half term, this changes to Design and Technology and making moving greeting cards with sliders, levers and split pins.

Geography

This half term, the topic will be 'Where do I live?' and this will give the children a chance to become familiar with the local area, where they live and physical features that they can see.

PE

PE days are Wednesday and Friday. Please ensure that your child comes into school in their PE kit on these days and that all items of the P.E. kit are clearly named. The children will be receiving coaching from our PE coach and Miss Ward will teach one lesson per week.

Homework

Children will be given a half termly homework grid. This will have a range of topic based activities which the children can complete. This homework will support children in applying knowledge to different contexts and

practise the skills they learn in school. The menus have a selection of activities which the children can do in their own time. They can do one, two or the whole grid. At the end of the half term, there will be a chance for children to share completed homework with each other.

Please feel free to pop in at the end of the day if you would like to discuss their homework or ways to support your child at home further.

If you have any questions or concerns at all, please feel free to come in after school to speak to us or make an appointment with the office. Thank you for your co-operation and support.

Miss Ward