

# Class 1

*The Bliss Charity School*



## Term 1 2023



Dear parents/carers,

Welcome to Class 1! I hope you have all had a fantastic summer and are feeling refreshed and ready to start the new term. We have been so excited to start this new year with you and I know we are all going to work together to make our learning fun and memorable. Below you will find an overview of the topic for this term. We have also included some key information and dates for your diary. Please do not hesitate to come and talk to us if you have any questions.

*Miss Churms and Mrs. Mercer*



## Term 1 Topic: *Scarecrows, Skeletons & Me*



In this topic, the children will be exploring parts of their bodies, senses, feelings and our own personal histories. Here is a brief overview of the subjects we will be covering in the topic:

English: The children will develop their English skills through topic-related stories, including *The Scarecrow's Hat*, *The Scarecrow's Wedding* and *Funnybones*. The children will be using the 'Read, Write Inc.' scheme to support their learning of phonics and reading. They will also continue to develop their handwriting skills using the 'Kinetic Letters' programme.

Science: During science lessons, the children will be labelling the outside parts of the body (scarecrow parts). They will then learn about the bones inside their bodies (skeletons) and how they grow, feel as well as using their senses. The children will use their senses to explore the world around them, with a particular focus on autumn.

History: How am I making history? We will be looking at children's personal chronology and finding out about the past within living memory. Part of this will involve looking at photographs and asking lots of questions. Please see the end of this newsletter for information on how you can support with this.

Art: The children will be exploring colour mixing through paint play, using a range of tools to paint on different surfaces and creating paintings inspired by Clarice Cliff and Jasper Johns. We will be experimenting with printing by creating scarecrow faces.

Design and Technology: We will be creating a pair of class scarecrows and cooking up some mini scarecrow wedding cakes.

Music: Theme: All About Me - Children learn to identify the difference between the pulse and rhythm of a song and consolidate their understanding of these concepts through listening and performing activities.

## Other subjects ...

RE: How did the world begin? Exploring a range of creation stories in imaginative ways, children present their own ideas using art and language. They consider how creation stories help some people understand what God is like.

Maths: The children will focus on their understanding of place value and number. This will include developing their sorting and counting skills. They will then be ordering numbers, writing numbers and beginning to add and subtract.

PE: We will be following a programme called 'Real PE' which teaches different core skills throughout the year. This term, we will focus on gymnastics.

PSHE: After establishing class rules, the children will focus on protective behaviours and hygiene.

Computing: The children will be learning basic technology skills within all curriculum areas. They will look at how to control a touchpad, keyboard skills, how to switch on and shutdown a laptop correctly as well as staying safe online.

## Helping your child at home ...

Reading: All the children will be given two reading books to take home. One will be a *Read Write Inc.* Book Bag book, linked to the phonics they have learnt at school. The other, will be a coloured banded book that your child has chosen. Please encourage your child to share their books at home. Adults will be changing their *Read Write Inc.* book once a week and they will be given the opportunity to change their coloured banded reading book themselves. Please write in your child's reading record every time they read. We will check the record weekly on a Monday and keep a record of how many times each child has read. You can also write down any other books they may read at home too. If they read 5 times in a week they will move up the 'bookworm' (displayed in the classroom). When they reach the top of the bookworm (10 weeks), they will be awarded with a sticker in the back of their reading records during celebration assembly.

Maths: A weekly maths homework task will be set through 'My Maths' (an online mathematics programme) on a Friday and is due the following Friday. A separate letter will be sent home with information on how to access this (<https://www.mymaths.co.uk/>).

Phonics: A weekly phonics sheet will be sent home on a Friday focusing on sounds we have looked at that week. This is due back into school on the following Friday. Phonics homework will start after a parent phonic information meeting, regarding phonics expectations, how to support your child, and the phonics screening in June 2024.

## Class 1 information ...

'Forest Friday': It is a bit of a stretch to call our outdoor classroom a forest, but it sounded snappy! Every Friday afternoon, we will be using the outdoor classroom. Please bring in a pair of wellies that can be kept in school for this purpose.

PE: The children will be doing outdoor PE on Mondays and indoor PE on Fridays. On these days, your child will need to come to school wearing their weather appropriate school PE kit. Can we have an additional bag of spare clothes for children to keep on their peg at school. Accidents or falling in puddles may still occur in Class 1!

### Other:

- Please could you send in (or email) two photographs of your child as a baby and on their first day of school or any other life event from reception (such as getting a new pet). Emails can be sent to the office. Please can these be in school by Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September or earlier if possible. Please note that we will not be able to return the photos.
- There is a short phonics information meeting on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 3:30 in Class 1 (please sign in at the office). We will go through phonics expectations in Class 1, how to support your child, and the phonics screening in June 2024.
- Walk in Wednesday – Visit us in Class 1 on 11<sup>th</sup> October at 8:45-9:05 and complete a short activity with your child as a snapshot of our learning.