

# Welcome back Darwin Class!



I am very excited to welcome you back to a new school year. I am looking forward to seeing some familiar faces in Darwin, as well as getting to know all of the new year 1 children.

Our topic this half term is called 'If You Go Down to The Woods Today...' and this letter tells you a little bit about some of the learning we will be doing, as well as introducing a few of the routines of Key Stage 1.

If you would like to know more or just have any questions in general, please feel free to come and have a chat with me - I am always in the playground at the end of the day.

Miss Knights

### Quick reminder...

Please make sure children are bringing named water bottles into school as it is really important that they have a drink throughout the day. Please also make sure that all jumpers and PE kit are clearly named as everyone's looks the same! Thank you.

### English

Our writing will be based around two bear-themed texts; The Everywhere Bear and Goldilocks and Just the One Bear. Using these as examples we will be writing captions, stories and letters and really working on our sentence formation and the use of punctuation. Right from the start we will be using word banks and prompts to help us be more accurate with our spelling, and also practising our letter formation so that our handwriting is beautiful and neat.

### Maths

This half term is all about becoming more familiar with the number system and how it works. We will be ordering and comparing numbers using place value and solving problems in different contexts that will need us to add, subtract, multiply and divide. There will be lots of practise with our number bonds to 20 and for year 2, times tables. We will find out about new fractions and explore the properties of shape. We will also be measuring length, height and time.

### Homework

Each week the children will bring home a homework folder on a Wednesday with a Maths activity to be handed in on the following Monday. They will also have a list of spellings to learn for a spelling test or dictation on the Monday.

The children will continue to have reading books to share at home and will be given the opportunity to change these themselves on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning.

### Science

We will be investigating animals and their habitats, in particular the different habitats and food chains you might find in a woodland setting. We will be using secondary sources of information but also taking trips to the playground or the woods to search out some animals for ourselves, to see where they live and why it suits them.

### Geography

We will be looking at the world map and getting to know where some of the oceans, continents and countries are. We will then be comparing the woodlands of the world, seeing how they differ and how they might be the same. Our final focus will be a comparison between the New Forest and the Amazon Rainforest.

### Foundation subjects

Art this half term is all about teddy bears and we will be using clay to try to model some of our own. In DT we will be designing and making sandwiches to share with you on a teddy bear's picnic and in ICT we will be illustrating famous bear stories using paint programmes on Purple Mash. During music sessions, we will start by learning about 'duration' through games, songs and the use of different percussion instruments.

### PE

Mr Holmes will continue to teach the children for a session on a Wednesday and I will be taking another session during the week which will be either dance or gymnastics. Please make sure children have full indoor and outdoor kit every day.

### PDL, Circle Time and RE

We will start the term by creating our class charter to agree on the important things for our behaviour and learning in Darwin Class. We will then spend some time thinking about how we can take good care of ourselves. In RE we will be looking at being thankful and linking this to the celebration of Harvest.