

31st August 2016

Dear Parents

Welcome to Park House English School

We would like to welcome you and your child to **Year 1**.

We feel that children make the best progress when there is a good partnership between the school and home and always appreciate any support that is provided. If you have the chance to further your child's interest in the areas being covered please take it, discussing what your child is doing and allowing them to teach you!

Reading

Reading is a fundamental skill in children's learning and we aim to foster an enjoyment of reading for both pleasure and to acquire information. At home children are expected to read one school colour coded reading book with an adult every day. Reading should be heard nightly, we would not expect this to exceed 15minutes. Please take the time to discuss the book, what can be seen in the pictures, what might happen next and what your child did or did not enjoy. Good understanding of what has been read is crucial and we will assess this continually in class. If your child gets stuck on a word, encourage them to use the strategies they practise in the classroom, for example sounding it out and then blending the sounds together.

If you have any concerns over reading levels, we expect you to contact the class teacher for discussion, please remember that comprehension is vital and ongoing assessments will happen throughout Year 1.

English

The children will experience a range of texts, including fiction, non-fiction and poetry. We will use these as a basis for their writing. The children will develop their confidence in becoming independent writers through a range of activities. They will also continue to develop their knowledge of the spelling of different sounds and high frequency words. There will be a spelling test every Thursday and we would ask you to support your child in learning their spelling words. We would encourage you to make learning new words fun by playing games with your child. A weekly spelling test is only one indicator of spelling ability and we monitor spelling in all writing activities, not only during the formalised spelling test.

Each week we will complete a piece of 'Big Writing', there will be a 'Talk Topic' linked to this and we ask that you discuss this with your child. This discussion is vital and will have a very positive impact on the development of your child's vocabulary. We very much believe that if a child can talk about a certain subject, they will have more success when writing about it.

Maths

This term the children will be developing their knowledge of number in order to read, write and order numbers up to 20, reliably count 20 objects and begin to add and subtract using objects for support. The children will also compare lengths and recognise and describe 3D shapes.

In order to support your child with Maths, we would encourage you to try and find fun ways of incorporating counting and numbers into everyday activities, for example singing number songs, practising counting, for example stairs, and looking for different shapes around the house.

Science

The science topics for the Autumn term are:

1st Half Term: Ourselves

In this topic we will find out about the human body, animals, learning how we grow and change and how animals move.

2nd Half Term: Forces - Pushes and Pulls

In this topic we will find out about different kinds of movement and how pushes and pulls can be used to start, or stop, objects moving.

Activities and quizzes for both of these areas can be found on the following website: http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/scienceclips/ages/5_6/science_5_6.shtml

IPC

During the Autumn term, we will begin by spending a few weeks thinking about 'Ourselves', focusing on the country from where our family originates and who is in our family.

We would be grateful if you could discuss with your child the country from where they originate, thinking about, for example the weather, the scenery, and, if they are from a different country, whether it is similar or different to Qatar.

Toys

In this topic we will talk about our favourite toys and the differences between toys we play with now and toys we played with when we were younger. We will also be finding out about toys in the past and toys from different countries.

Please take the time to discuss with your child some of the toys that you used to play with when you were young, looking at pictures, or the actual toys if possible, thinking about whether there are any similarities or differences between the toys from your childhood and those played with today.

We hope you will find this information beneficial and look forward to building a supportive partnership with you.

We thank you for your co-operation.

Yours Sincerely

Park House English School

Brian Allen

Mr Brian Allen
Head of Primary

L Anderson

Ms Lisa Anderson
Year 1 Leader

