

Meet the Team

Class Teachers

Mrs H Parsons
Year 1 Class Teacher

Mrs C Lewis
Head of School

Mrs J Rowe
PPA Cover Teacher

Support Staff

Mrs J Slatter
Teaching Assistant

Mrs S Gupta
Apprentice Teaching Assistant

Key Dates

Please visit our School Calendar to see the events taking place this term:

<https://www.mariewelleracademy.com/events/>

Dear Parents,

We hope you all had a fantastic Easter break and got to enjoy the sunshine and some chocolate! We are excited to share with you some of the fun activities we have planned for the rest of their year with us. We are now already over half way through Year 1 and, before we know it, we'll be getting the children ready for Year 2.

Phonics Screening Check – w/c 12th June 2023

As previously mentioned on Class Dojo, the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check (PSC), takes place this term. The PSC falls during the second week back after half term, **please do your best to ensure your child is in attendance this week.**

The check does not really feel like a test, the children work one-to-one with one of us. We ask them to read a total of 40 words, 20 are real and 20 are nonsense or 'alien' words. This is to see if they can work out the words using their phonic knowledge rather than just knowing words by sight. The children are very familiar with completing their phonics assessments at the end of each half term, so this should not be something they worry about it at all.

In the run up to, and just before, the check we will remind the children to spot '**special friends**', '**Fred talk**' and '**read the word**'. We are however unable to do this during the test so it would be great if you can give them the same message whenever they are reading any unfamiliar words at home. The children are used to this process in our daily phonics sessions and reminders at home will help make this even more automatic for them. This process is also very clear in any phonics videos the children watch if you want to see it 'in action'.

As mentioned on Class Dojo, we are now sending home weekly QR codes to help your child practise any sounds they are less secure in. This is to support them ahead of the PSC but also to ensure they are fully prepared for Year 2. You can also explore all other links posted on Class Dojo on 1/4/23 to further support your child.

During the week of the test we may not be able to do our usual phonics inputs so your child may keep their book for slightly longer than normal at this time. If you have any questions at all about phonics or the screening check, please let one of us know.

Subject Overviews

English

The children continue to impress us with their brilliant writing, remembering lots of the skills we have practised when they come to their independent writes. They are so proud of their blossoming vocabulary and especially love when their amazing sentences are chosen to go on our super sentence stacking wall.

This term we will be exploring the stories 'The Last Stop on Market Street' and 'The Queen's Hat'.

Start of the Day

It is really important that the children are ready to learn in the morning.

To confirm, the school day starts at 8.45am which is when the register is taken in the classroom. Please ensure your child is at school before this to avoid a late mark.

Our daily phonics lessons now take place at 9.00am so it is imperative that your child is settled and ready to learn for this.

P.E

P.E takes place on Thursdays. Please ensure your child's P.E kit is returned to school if they have used it for a club.

Homework

Reading

The homework focus will continue to be on Phonics as we recognise the importance of developing the children's reading fluency in order to access other parts of the curriculum. Please ensure that your child's book is kept in the folder in the book bag as we cannot give them a new book unless they've returned their previous one.

Spellings

After the phonics screening, your child will be given an updated copy of their Year 1 Common Exception Words (or 'tricky' words). The highlighted words are the ones they can either read or spell. Please continue to practise these at home as it will support the children's reading and spelling in school.

Maths

To help your child at home, we recommend downloading the free White Rose 1-minute maths app if you haven't done so already. It works alongside our Maths curriculum so is a really useful resource.

<https://whiterosemaths.com/1-minute-maths>

You may also like to watch the catchy scratch garden videos to secure counting in twos, fives and tens – they really do get stuck in their heads (and ours).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GvTcpfSnOMQ>
(Twos)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EemieA2Dijw>
(Fives)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ftati8iGQcs>
(Tens)

Maths

The children will continue to develop their understanding of place value, tens and ones, when exploring numbers beyond 50. We will be thinking about equal groups as we further explore multiplication and division/sharing. The children will begin to move on from counting in twos, fives and tens to developing their times tables.

This term we will also explore fractions of shapes and amounts using halves and quarters, as well as money and telling the time. These are all great concepts that can be reinforced practically at home.

Science

This term, as well as continuing to learn about seasonal changes, we will focus on plants and growing. We will learn the parts of the plant and their uses and will be able to name common wild and garden plants. It would be lovely if you could reinforce these when you're out and about in the garden or on a walk. The children will grow beans at school so they can see the stages of the bean life cycle from bean to flower.

Humanities

In Geography the children will be exploring European and international countries with Barnaby Bear. They will learn more about physical and human features as well as exploring their cultures and traditions. They will be learning about the five oceans of the world. In History, we will be learning about kings, queens and castle and we are excited for our visit to Warwick Castle on 3rd July. Further details will follow nearer the time.

RE

This term we will be focusing on places of worship, from a range of different religions.

PSHE and Wellbeing

This term the children will be learning about how to keep themselves safe and how their bodies are growing and changing. This will include some lessons on body parts and 'keeping privates private', We will let you know before we cover these. We will also continue to work on developing the children's resilience with a growth mindset across all subjects and provide some relaxation time and yoga to help them unwind!

As always, may we take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support. We are really looking forward to a fun-filled final term!

If you have any questions regarding the above or wish to speak to a member of staff about your child, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With best wishes,

The Year 1 Team