

Dove Class Newsletter: Term 1



Dear Parents / Carers

Firstly, I would like to offer a very warm welcome back to school to all Dove Class families. I hope you have had an enjoyable summer break! In light of what we have all gone through over the last six months, I understand that there may be some feelings of anxiety over returning to school but please be assured that your children's safety and well-being continues to be at the heart of all we do at Sutton Benger.

Initially, we are delivering a 'recovery curriculum' in which we will focus heavily on rebuilding our class and school community so that all the children feel safe and happy. Boosting the children's self-esteem and their relationships with each other will be central to this curriculum and so the first few weeks will be quite different to a normal start to the academic year. We will be using lots of games and discussion activities to build trust in each other again and to help us all set foundations for learning that will benefit us for the rest of the year. After this initial 'recovery curriculum' period, we will begin some more typical lessons and ways of learning once everyone is feeling more confident and secure in class. Please see the grid below for brief details.

In English , we will use visual stimuli for broadening vocabulary, recapping key grammar and, crucially, developing retrieval and inference skills. Many children will be a little rusty when it comes to writing so we will be consolidating sentence writing with a focus on adding description and explanation. We will start the term recapping all phases of phonics and the spelling of the Year 1 Common Exception words.	Our maths learning will focus on developing our 'number sense' initially and will involve practical investigations and talk in small groups. We will then move on to more formal learning of understanding of number and place value up to 100, followed by addition and subtraction strategies.	In science & technology , we will be investigating how pushes and pulls affect different objects. In particular, we will be learning about how toys move and working towards designing and building our own moving toys using wheels and axles.
Our History topic will focus on toys through the ages. The children will explore similarities and differences between toys from over the past century or so and be introduced to the idea of chronology using this context.	In art , we will focus on self-portraits, initially using pencil strokes and shading. This will link into computing later in the term as the children use software to create their own pop-art portraits.	Our PSHE learning will be focusing on creating a safe, welcoming and happy class and school environment. There will be a focus on positive mental health and developing self-esteem.
There will be two PE* lessons each week, where the children will be developing their agility, coordination and balance through a range of multi-skills activities.	Our RE learning this term will focus on Christianity and the concept of creation.	In music , our learning is based on the theme of 'toys' and will focus on beats and tempo.

* Please remember that PE kits (trainers, white t-shirt, black or blue shorts/skort) are required to be in school every day.

On Monday afternoons, the class will be taught art and then, later, computing by Mrs Pitts. There will also be a short handwriting practice session.

Initially for home learning, we are prioritising reading and mental maths skills. Children are expected read a minimum of three times a week at home (with this being recorded in their school diary). For mental maths practice, I will be making an online resource available through Microsoft Forms. Further details regarding this will follow in a separate email.

Thank you for supporting your children with their home learning. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to write a note in your child's diary or see me before or after school.

Kind regards,

Mr Richards