**ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE CHURCH of ENGLAND**

**(VA) FIRST SCHOOL**

**5th November 2018**

Year 1 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope everyone has had a great half term and is feeling ready for the challenge of the new half term. I have had a relaxing break and I am ready to welcome the children back to school.

The first week of this half term will be spent looking at the theme of Poppies and Remembrance. We will be reading a range of poems and experimenting with various art styles as we create our own poppies, ready for the display which the Gosforth Schools Trust holding. This exhibition will be at Trinity Church on 21st and 22nd November.

For the rest of the half term we will be exploring the topic of ‘Toys’. We have access to a Box of Delights from The Discovery Museum, full of interesting objects, which we will be using s a stimulus for our topic this half term. We will also be attending a workshop at The Discovery Museum on Thursday 29th November. This workshop will explore the different materials used in toys from the past and the present.

In Year 1, reading books will, again, usually be changed on a Tuesday morning, when children will be given two books to read during the following week. We will occasionally keep book bags overnight if we have not had time to change books during the school day. The National Curriculum states that children should read and re-read texts to develop their fluency and pace; these are skills which are hard to establish in a first read through, so we would ask that children read both books at least twice before the following Tuesday. Please remember to write a short note in your child’s Reading Record book each time you listen to your child read.  Please could you ensure book bags are brought to school everyday, checked for letters every night and old letters removed.

PE will usually be taught on a Friday, by Miss Salter. PE kits should be left in school (on cloakroom pegs) and should contain a pair of plimsolls/trainers for outdoor lessons. It would be very helpful if any child with long hair could have their hair tied up in a ponytail on this day too.

Homework will continue to be sent out on a Thursday, to be returned the following Tuesday. This will be one page of English, one page of Math’s and spelling’s linked to the sound we have been learning in class. Children will also be receiving some of the Year 1 Common Exception words alongside their reading books. It would be very helpful if you could practice these alongside their reading.

I am very grateful for the parents who already volunteering in our classroom. If any other parents feel they can donate any (regular) spare time, who would like to come into school to help – there’s always jobs to do! Some parents enjoy working with small groups of children, others like to laminate, change books etc. If you have DBS clearance, and are interested in helping out, please speak to me or Mrs McCloud.

Children in Y1 will be dismissed from the classroom door which enters the yard.  I am still getting to know the children and their parents and carers so it is taking a little longer than usual to dismiss children at home time. Please bear with me and make yourself known to me! If you would like to contact me by email, the address is: katie.wilkinson@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk.

If you have any questions, please do pop in to see me at the end of the school day.

I look forward to working with you, and your children, in the coming year.

Yours sincerely

Miss Wilkinson