**ARCHBISHOP RUNCIE CHURCH of ENGLAND**

**(VA) FIRST SCHOOL**

**23rd April 2019**

**Year 1 Newsletter 5**

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope everyone has had a relaxing break and is ready for the busy start to Summer term.

This half term we will be exploring the topic of ‘Roots and Shoots’. This will begin with a visit to Dobbie’s Garden Centre on Friday 26th April. This will involve a plant hunt around the garden centre and the opportunity to plant our very own seeds. Back in the classroom we will develop our scientific knowledge of the different parts of a plant as well as looking at what they need to grow. We will also plant lots of different vegetables in our courtyard and hopefully get to eat them!

As the Year 1 Phonics screening is fast approaching, we are holding a parent workshop on Tuesday 30th April at 9am. This is an opportunity for you to find out more about the screening and ask any questions you may have. I will also send out the presentation to all parents. Other key dates for year 1 this half term are:

* Thursday 2nd May - Monday 13th May – Miss Wilkinson absent, Miss Salter covering.
* Friday 17th May – Year 1 leading whole school worship at 9am.
* Monday 20th May – Selected children to Visit Daft as a Brush to plant our school planter.

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. Please remember to 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 make a small comment in your child’s reading record each time you hear them read. There is now a questioning prompt in the front of your child’s reading record. This is a useful resource to build children’s inference skills. Please could you also ensure book bags are brought to school everyday, checked for letters every night and old letters removed.

PE will usually be taught on a Tuesday or Thursday, as well as the Golden Mile each week. PE kits should be left in school (on cloakroom pegs) and should contain a pair of named trainers for outdoor PE 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.  As the weather begins to get warmers, PE lessons will take place outdoors more often, therefore it is important that children bring a pair of named trainers in their PE kits. Please do not send in trainers with laces unless children are able to tie them.

Children should also bring in a water bottle each Monday, filled with water only. This will then be sent home each Friday to be washed, ready for the following week. A healthy snack is also provided each day for children in Year 1.

Homework will continue to be sent out on a Thursday, to be returned the following Tuesday. This will be either one page of English or Phonics, one page of math’s and spellings. These spellings will now form a spelling quiz in class each Thursday. This will give children a full week to practise at home. The best way to practise these spellings is for children to look at the word, say the word, cover and write the word and finally check it.

I am very grateful for the parents who already volunteering in our classroom. If any other parents feel they can give any spare time in an afternoon, or help out on visits, please speak to myself or Mrs McCloud.

Children in Y1 will continue to be dismissed from the classroom door which enters the yard.  If you have any questions, please do pop in to see me at the end of the school day, once all children have been dismissed or if you would prefer to contact me by email, the address is: katie.wilkinson@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk.

I look forward to the next half and all the exciting things we are going to learn about in Year 1!

Yours sincerely

Miss Wilkinson