



Dallington Church
of England
Primary School
Autumn Brochure



Dallington Class
YR/1 2019-20

Dear Parents,

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to our new parents and to welcome back to Dallington Class those of you who have older children at the school. We have been delighted to see how enthusiastically the children have started their school journey and how well they are settling in. We are also extremely proud of our Year 1 children in the class, who have been excellent role models to the Reception children.

The whole school topic for this term is *Inspirational People*. In Dallington Class, we are taking one step back and beginning with a focus on *Marvellous Me*. This will allow for a secure grounding in order to lead into an exploration of family/people who help us as the term progresses.

Marvellous Me is a wonderful topic to begin our school year, affording lots of opportunity for us all to get to know each other. We will play lots of circle time games to help the children naturally learn the names and personalities of each other. We will be exploring how special and unique each one of us is, and we will spend time talking, drawing and writing about our families, homes and pets.

We are hoping to invite visitors who play a role in the local community to come in and talk to us – if you have a job or interest that fits with our ‘people who help us’ theme and you would like share this with the children, please do let me know.

Overall, this first term is all about settling in, assessing the children’s needs and ensuring their learning is relevant, tailored and fun. We create a supportive and nurturing classroom environment in which the children are encouraged to ‘have a go’ and to know that mistakes are ok.

Our classroom is rooted in the premise of partnership between parent, teacher and child. Please do come to me with any concerns or questions you may have, however big or small. We love to hear of the children’s achievements at home, so please do fill in the Wow slips and send them in. We will add these to the children’s Learning Journeys. If you need more slips, please ask and we will provide.

Thank you for your support,

Mrs Sparks

Literacy: The children will have the opportunity to hear lots of lovely stories in our daily story sessions, which will help develop the good listening skills that are needed for success in all areas of school life. It will also help to establish an understanding of sentence and story structure and to enrich vocabulary. In line with our topic, we will be reading *Monkey Puzzle*, *Peace at Last*, *A Quiet Night In*, *Stick Man* and the *Funny Bones* series. Texts we will explore in detail include *I’m Special*, *I’m Me!* by Ann Meek and *Who’s In My Family* by Robie Harris.

In phonics, we will begin by learning our first six letters: s, a, t, p, i, n. Once the children know and recognise these they can begin to read some cvc (consonant, vowel, consonant) words, such as pin, sat, pat, tap. We will use alphabet books to reinforce the learning of each day’s sound. Each Friday, the week’s new sounds will be put in the children’s book bags for you to practise with them at home.

In early writing, we will be using a method called *Helicopter Stories*, in which the children are encouraged to make up their own stories, which are then scribed and read out by an adult whilst the children act it out to the class. This method supports the development of story-telling, imagination, narrative and self-expression. The children will be learning to correctly form and write their name. Some children (as appropriate) will begin forming letters in their story writing or learning to correctly spell and write simple key words.

Reading: There will be an emphasis this term on early reading in school and at home. The Year 1 children have their reading records and have been bringing reading books home since the start of term. For Reception children, we will begin sending home reading records and books now the children have had a chance to settle in. Once your child has read a book twice, either in school or at home, they will be supported in choosing a new one.

We are hoping to visit the school library once a week on a Friday, during which time the children will have the opportunity to bring home up to two books. Many children choose books that they would like for their bedtime story.

Maths: The emphasis this term will be on counting, recognising and ordering numbers. Some children will be ready to start writing numbers, doing simple addition and finding one more/one less than a given number. Year 1 children will revise their number formations and ordering numbers to 20. We will be using lots of different media/apparatus to support practical counting and grouping.

Space, Shape and Measure: The children will weigh, measure and compare objects and learn how to accurately use a balance. We will identify simple 2D and 3D shapes in the school environment and investigate their properties through simple activities. As part of our topic work, we will make a pictogram of the class's eye colours.

We will be encouraging the children to spot numbers in their environment to help them identify and understand their everyday use. We would be grateful if you could do the same when the children are at home with you, at the supermarket, or going about your day-to-day lives.

Understanding the World: The children will be taking part in many topic-related activities that will help develop their understanding of the world. These will include:

- Drawing around each other on large sheets of paper, and labelling simple body parts
- Drawing and writing about our families, homes and pets. Drawing where we live, what we like to eat and what we enjoy doing
- Tasting different types of food to see whether we prefer sweet or sour and how our tastes differ from those of our friends
- Exploring how unique we are through science: drawing around our hands and using an ink pad to make our fingerprints, then using a magnifying glass to look at the similarities and differences between everyone's fingerprints
- Finding out more about where we live and our school through first-hand observational walks and investigations within the school grounds

The children will be given lots of opportunities to initiate their own learning, selecting from class resources. They will also complete a range of ICT programs that will support their phonics, maths, music and art learning and will use a range of technology, including cameras and voice recorders.

All our activities will encourage the children to be imaginative and to explore and use different media and materials. Planned activities include: finding out about our skeletons and using art straws to make pictures; decorating a large cut out of ourselves using wool, felt and other materials; studying our faces and creating our self portrait; making paper plate faces using fruit and vegetables.

We will be encouraging the children to be imaginative in their play and learning. They will also express their ideas through dance and music and through role play opportunity in our Home Corner.

Physical Development: We will be helping the children develop good control and coordination in large and small movements. They will be learning to explore ways of moving, to travel with control, to share space safely and to work with partners in dance and other PE sessions.

We will be using a variety of P.E. equipment and we will look at the importance of physical exercise and a healthy diet.

RE: In RE we will be exploring the word God and why it is so important to Christians. As Christmas creeps ever nearer, we will also be looking at Nativity and why Christians perform Nativity plays.

Music: In music we will learn lots of songs. Some of these will support our phonics and number learning. Others will be seasonal (such as Harvest) or will relate to our topic. We will play simple percussion instruments and learn their names and how they make a sound.

PSHE: Our topic will support the children in settling quickly and easily into school, and will help to develop their self-confidence, self-esteem and self-knowledge. We will focus on class and school rules and helping the children distinguish between right and wrong. Our circle time games will help the children understand the importance of listening to each other, asking questions and taking turns.

Outdoor Learning: We plan to be outside as much as possible, so please do ensure your child has a coat and a named pair of wellington boots in school every day. We will enjoy some autumn walks around the school grounds and observe the subtle changes as a new season begins. We will explore leaf printing and tree bark rubbing.

We are very lucky to soon be welcoming a forest school practitioner each week. Forest school is hugely beneficial to young children's health, wellbeing and learning, helping them develop confidence and independence as well as feelings of empathy for others and for nature. We are looking forward to sharing more information about these sessions with you in due course.

We are grateful to the volunteers who come in to take groups of children gardening, as the children thoroughly enjoy these sessions. If you would like to get involved with this, please do let us know.

Homework: The children are likely to be very tired after school this term! Please do try to hear your child read every day – it really does make such a difference to their progress – but if they are too tired or not in the mood, do not force it. Instead, please take the opportunity to read to them and/or to spend a few minutes revising their phonics sounds.

As the year progresses, we may ask the children to complete some tasks at home with you to reinforce their learning in school. If so, please can you encourage your child to do their best work, and please indicate how much support you gave your child when completing the task.