



Montagu Academy
Striving for excellence, broadening horizons

WELCOME TO – YEAR 1 2017-2018

Y1 CURRICULUM

At Montagu Academy we have worked hard to bring the national curriculum to life. Our curriculum is an enquiry based approach built around questioning, which helps 'hook' the children into their learning. By using a questioning approach, it develops curiosity and incorporates challenge for all children. Children are involved in the planning and emphasis is placed on the learning experiences being motivating, engaging and relevant for all the children. Opportunities are built in for children to apply other key skills in English, Maths, Computing and skills in learning together.

BUILDING LEARNING POWER

From September we will be further implementing BLP. Raising aspirations and developing learning behaviour is a key focus for us and becoming a building learning power school will help us achieve our vision.

BLP states that there are four key learning behaviours – Resilience, Resourcefulness, Reflectiveness and Reciprocity. Each of the four R's is made up of a number of areas of learning, which we call learning muscles.

We will begin to teach the children all about these skills and learning muscles and how that just as we can build our physical muscles with the right kinds of exercise, we can also exercise our learning muscles to develop their strength and stamina.

We will use BLP to develop what we call 'The Language for Learning' in school and this will enable us to engage all pupils in dialogue using a common language to support and develop our understanding of how we learn. It is our intention that the children use the language for learning to explain ways in which they achieved or approached tasks and how they can move on to the next chapter in their learning.

OUTDOOR LEARNING

Throughout school we will be developing opportunities for outdoor learning across the curriculum. Some of our learning will take place outdoors so please ensure children have a coat and appropriate footwear for the weather.

REWARDS AND SANCTIONS

We have worked hard to develop our positive behaviour policy and we will be using Class Dojo this upcoming year to recognise and reward good behaviour. Children will collect Dojo points which can be traded in for prizes. Parents also have online access to the points their children are collecting. Class Dojo has some exciting additional features that the teachers will be sharing with your children and will be communicated home in September. The children have a celebration assembly every Friday in which good work is shared and the children receive certificates for this. If children break the conduct rules, then the five step behaviour plan is implemented. This system has had a significant impact on addressing negative behaviour since its introduction three years ago.

HOW WILL YOU KNOW WHAT YOUR CHILD IS LEARNING?

During the first week of a term, a summary of the key objectives to be covered will be sent home. Along with this will be any additional information regarding resources that your child may need to bring in for certain topics (e.g. boxes for DT and Art) and other relevant information i.e. trips, class targets etc.

UNIFORM

Your child will be expected to follow the school uniform policy. All children must wear plain black shoes. They need a white polo shirt and charcoal grey trousers, skirts or pinafores. Blue and white check dresses or charcoal grey school shorts, can be worn in the summer. Tights need to be grey and socks with shorts or skirts need to be white. They need a royal blue jumper or cardigan with a school logo which can be ordered online. Earrings must be studs and can be covered for P.E. All children need to bring a coat suitable for working outside in all weather conditions.

PE

Your child will be expected to do P.E. and will need their PE kit so that they can participate. Trainers or pumps are compulsory for outdoor P.E. and must be in school with their P.E. kit all year.

We will display the timetable for P.E. during the first week back but we recommend that your child to bring a P.E. kit on a Monday and take it home on a Friday in case of any timetable changes. Please make sure all items are labelled with your child's name.

FIRST WEEK BACK

The following activities will take place in the first week back:

- Explaining and agreeing class procedures
- Explanation of expectations and agreement of class vision
- Discussion of conduct rules
- Setting of individual and class targets
- Allocating class jobs

INFORMATION GIVEN AT FIRST PARENTS' MEETING

- How your child has settled in
- Education support plans
- Involvement in intervention groups
- Discussion of targets

READING

Your child will be given a Reading Scheme book appropriate to their reading age and level of attainment and understanding in reading which they will bring home along with a school planner.

- Your child will read once a week (where appropriate – this may be more or less depending on the reading age of the child) in school and is expected to read at least three times a week at home as well and return their planner to school. A new school reward system will be introduced to support this initiative.
- Your child will be expected to bring in their book bag with their reading books and planner each day.
- Either the person who listens to the child read or the child themselves depending on suitable reading levels of attainment should complete the school planner. The book will be changed if an adult has commented in this book and the child has completed reading the book with few problems, showing good understanding. If the pupil comments, the book will be changed if the teacher is satisfied that the child understands the text they have read (through explanation or answers to questions).
- Your child will also have a set of group reading books, which will be kept in school.
- Your child will have a free choice book from our class reading corner that they can read at home for pleasure which will be changed weekly.

SPELLINGS

- Your child will be learning spellings in school in a new way this year. Further information on the approaches will be sent home in the autumn term.

HOMEWORK

- Learning Logs and mathematics homework will be set fortnightly, related to some area of work being covered in class. Homework should be completed and returned on a Wednesday.
- Therefore one week you will have learning log homework and the other mathematics homework.

MATHEMATICS AND CALCULATIONS POLICY

- We would ask all parents to support us and your child in the methods we have agreed to in school. A new calculations policy has been written and if you would like a copy of the Calculations Policy, one can be obtained from the school office from September when the final review has taken place in preparation for the new school year.
- The methods currently taught today maybe different from methods taught when most parents and teachers were at school and therefore it is essential that your child is encouraged and supported in learning the methods we teach in school.
- If you need any support with these methods, please ask the class teacher or another member of staff for support and they will explain them to you.

DINNER ARRANGEMENTS

Children will be able to order meat, vegetarian, sandwich or jacket potato option. All dinners will be served in the hall. All school dinners will be free of charge for children in KS1 and FS2.

THE SCHOOL DAY

KS1 start their day at 9:00 but doors open from 8:50. It is extremely important for children to arrive on time so that they do not miss the morning activities, these include spelling practise, mathematics tasks and literacy tasks. The children will have a morning break time between 10:15-10:30 where they can have milk and fruit (milk to be paid online as in Reception class). Lunchtime will be from 12:00 until 1:00. School will finish at 3:15 and you will meet your child outside the entrance door to KS1.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING AND CONTINUED SUPPORT!

YOUR SUPPORT HERE IS GREATLY APPRECIATED WITH ALL OF THE AREAS ABOVE AND IT REALLY DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO A CHILD'S LEARNING, PARTICULARLY MATHS, READING AND SPELLING LEVELS OF ATTAINMENT AND UNDERSTANDING WHEN OUR POLICIES AND ADVICE IS FOLLOWED.