

Upper 1 Group Update

Dear Parents and carers,

We hope you all had a good Christmas break. In this flyer you will find information about some of the topics we will be working on this term, and ways in which you can support your child's learning at home. Home learning can take on many forms; it doesn't just mean extra work at home! Talking to your young person (YP) about our topics and making links to what you see and do when out and about can really help - it's probably what you are already doing. If you have any questions about home learning please get in touch or we can talk about it at the upcoming parents' evening in February.

What we will do in school...

PSHE and Life Skills. We will be continuing our sex and relationships education (SRE). We will continue to find out about autism and how it may affect each of us. We will be cooking a variety of snacks, meals and desserts

English This half term we will be looking at letters and diaries. We will be writing letters to young people in another school, writing more formal letters and studying some published diary style books e.g. Diary of a Wimpy Kid, The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole.

Functional Numeracy

We will continue to focus on money as this is an important life skill. We will also be studying fractions.

Knowledge of the World and Creativity

We will be finding out about the periodic table, elements, atoms and materials in science. In History we will be studying British History. In Art we will be looking at patterns and printing.

Functional ICT

We have been working on coding and Scratch in ICT. We also use ICT in other lessons to research topics, produce posters, writing etc.

What you could do together at home...

Be ready to answer any questions your child may have about our SRE lessons and Autism. Encourage your YP to make breakfast/lunch/drinks /snacks/meals with decreasing support. I'm happy to send home copies of any recipes we have used in class.

Talk to your YP about any books they like. Maybe encourage them to try some non-fiction, comic books and newspapers if fiction is not their thing. Reading blogs, navigating websites, reading a TV guide, following instructions in a recipe all helps.

Any occasions where you can encourage your YP to handle money would be helpful. Encourage them to count money at home - counting how much is in a change jar/money box. Talk about fractions of amounts e.g. half, quarter; discuss how much is left, as a fraction.

Talk about what everyday objects are made from and the properties of every day materials. There are some good science clips on 'How stuff works' if your YP is interested. Talk about events that have happened in the past and the era they occurred. Make, draw, paint and look at patterns.

Supporting the use of ICT in any context would be helpful. Encourage your YP to research/find out about things they are interested in on the internet.

We have attached our weekly timetable for you. Please note:



PE - every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

Please send a PE kit (any comfortable shorts, T-shirt and appropriate footwear) and deodorant in a bag to change into for the session. We have a tennis coach working with the class on Thursdays for 3 weeks.



Home-School Book

We will try to write in the home-school book to let you know about anything important that you may need to know about your YP's day. However I will usually contact parents by telephone if I feel there is something you need to know quickly. Please feel free to write what your child has been up to at home, any new achievements and any concerns or questions you may have. If your child has missed

breakfast, or had a bad night's sleep - please let us know so that we can care for them accordingly. I am happy to email you our weekly newsletter if you would prefer it in an electronic form. I can be contacted on the school email system if you would prefer to email me, at karen.salamon@walnuts.milton-keynes.sch.uk if you contact me by email please note that I do not always get a chance to check emails before school starts or during the school day but usually check them after school.

We would like to start to work on Independent Travel this term, which will involve travelling by bus across Milton Keynes. To keep costs down can I please ask that if your YP is entitled to a free bus pass, can they bring this into school to use when we travel. If they do not have a bus pass you can apply for them to have an 'All in One card' from Milton Keynes council this allows young people to travel for 50p a journey across Milton Keynes.

Thank you for taking the time to read this flyer. If you have any other queries, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Best Wishes,

Karen and the Upper 1 team