



'Welcome to Form 1'  
Autumn Term 2011



Cranford House



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Welcome to the new school year. We hope you enjoyed your summer holidays. These notes are to give you useful information about life in Form One at Cranford House. We do hope they are helpful, but please do feel free to talk to us if you have a query.

### **Literacy - Reading**

Children are taught individually using a wide range of approaches. Children read books selected, initially, by their teacher using a variety of schemes. Children read to their teachers/teaching assistants every day. Reading practice continues at home, using a reading scheme book, and learning high frequency words or phonic blends where appropriate. Notes kept in the reading record book maintain teacher/parent contact. Children make a weekly visit to the Lower School Library where they are able to select a book to read or share with their families.

### **Spelling**

Spellings will be given out on Friday and tested the following week. A short list of words based on weekly phonic work will be taken home to learn. This helps to develop independent writing skills.

### **Writing**

Children will experience a variety of writing forms such as news, reports, reviews, stories, descriptive writing, lists, captions and poetry. This writing will often be topic related. They will focus on organising their writing and beginning to learn the correct use of punctuation.

### **Handwriting**

The correct formation of upper and lower case letters using the Nelson Handwriting Scheme will be taught during formal handwriting lessons. During all other work, children will be encouraged to write clearly and evenly, using appropriate spacing and letter size.

### **Poetry**

Each Tuesday a poem will be put in your child's poetry book. We do not expect the children to learn them, they are just for fun!

### **Mathematics**

The emphasis this year will be on continuing to develop the children's number skills. We will also be looking at shape, weight and measure, data handling, capacity, money, problem solving, estimating, subtraction and addition. The children will learn through a variety of practical activities, games and ICT work. They will record their work on worksheets or through discussion with their teacher. There is a strong emphasis on mental calculations. The children will bring home a Maths Challenge book. Every Friday a new challenge will be set. This will help reinforce work being covered at school. Support by parents with learning mathematical facts, is very much appreciated.

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## Music

Pupils in Form 1 learn to explore music initially through singing and performing traditional and original songs. Through listening and appraising activities, pupils learn to respond to a variety of musical compositions, including their own work. Pupils develop their composing skills through creative group composition work. They will also sing in the infant choir once a week.

## ICT

In Form 1 we visit The Hub on a weekly basis, where the children work individually on a computer. This term we will be developing mouse and keyboard skills as well as using the digital cameras, flip cams and other ICT equipment.

## French

The children will be taught by Mme Butler for one lesson a week. They will be learning the names of family members, body parts, movements and songs about toys. These will be taught through simple songs and rhymes.

## P.E.

The children will have 2 double PE lessons with Mr Meakin. This term they will focus on ball skills, gymnastics, football and fitness. The children will also have 1 swimming lesson a week which will be on Fridays.

## Topic Work

Science, Humanities, PSHE, RS, Art, Technology and ICT are being taught through a topic based approach. This term our topics will be 'Children and Toys'. This will include Ourselves and Our bodies, Teddies, Toys, Families and Christmas. We will provide a curriculum plan at the beginning of each subtopic so that you can discuss or research these with your child if you wish. Not all subjects will be covered in each topic but the whole year has been carefully planned to cover all of the objectives set for Form One. Topics will vary in length.

## Building Learning Power

Over the past year, the whole school has been working on a new initiative called Building Learning Power. As the name suggests, we have been focussing on the key skills and attitudes which children need to enable optimum learning and development to take place. These are curiosity, imagination, reasoning, collaboration and resilience. We are also putting greater emphasis on looking at the **process** of learning, as well as the end results. Look out for references to BLP in reports and displays too!

## General Requests!

Please ensure that all of your child's clothing is clearly labelled with their name. PE kits and Art aprons can be kept at school and will be sent home for a wash when necessary. All children should have a named water bottle in school. Please check the Classroom door regularly as relevant information will be put up for you to read. Please inform the class teacher of any concerns as well as changes to arrangements for your child's collection at the end of the day.

**We are looking forward to having a happy and exciting year with you and your child!**

**The Form One Staff**

Mrs Nichola  
I'Anson

Mrs Janet Plant

Mrs Naomi  
O'Loughlin

Mrs Kaye Wynn  
Mrs Allison Rhodes

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