

Welcome to KS1 and Year One

Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

This newsletter is just to make you aware of some of the arrangements and expectations for Year 1.

Year 1 is very much about developing independence. We will not check or empty book bags each morning, therefore if the children have things to hand in, they must remember to do so. As they enter the class each morning, they should put their reading books in the basket.

Please can children have a school water bottle as large ones do not fit on the shelves and a reminder that they should have **water** only in them.

Learning at Home

A few parents have asked what they can do at home to help their children.

Read lots! Magazines, books, brochures, whatever takes their interest. Please continue to practise basic number work - counting forwards and backwards in 1s, 2s, 5s and 10s to 100. Money and telling the time are also skills the children should be ready to grasp.

PE

PE days are **Monday and Wednesday**. The children should bring their kit to school at the beginning of each half term and in school for the duration of the half term. If children forget to bring their PE kit to school, then the school policy is to lose 3 minutes of golden time. Please ensure that all clothing and PE kits are clearly labelled.

Reading

Reading is a major focus in Year 1 and we strive to ensure that all children end the year being fluent and able readers. It is also key to develop a love of reading and books. We do ask that you try to hear your child read at home **every night**. If a child reads at home daily, this can have a huge impact on their reading development. We will teach them the skills they need to read but they need to have plenty of opportunities to put this into practise. Most children will read to an adult in school 3 times a week and some children more. The children will be able to change their reading books daily if they have read at home. That said, we don't encourage racing through the reading scheme. Children will be moved onto the next reading band when they have met the assessment criteria not just because they have read all the books. They must have an understanding of what they are reading and be able to make predictions, relate reading to own experiences and be able to answer questions by retrieving parts of the text. Children should also be able to read a range of texts, not just the school scheme. So please share lots of books at home. In Year One we use a different reading scheme from Foundation, word walls are not used alongside this scheme.

Homework

In Year 1 the children will start to be set short homework tasks. Homework will be uploaded to seesaw on Fridays and you should ensure it is completed by the following Friday. They should not take a considerable length of time to complete and will consolidate the learning which has taken place in class that week. If homework is not handed in on time, the school policy is to lose 3 minutes of golden time.

Spellings

The children will also start to bring home spellings to learn. These will be uploaded to seesaw on a Monday so you can practise them all week ready to be tested in school on Friday. On the last week of each half term, the children are tested on a selection of spellings from all the ones they have been asked to learn that half term so continue to occasionally return to previous lists when practising. In Year 1, the spellings will be focussed around High Frequency words and link to their phonics. Please support your child to learn their spellings each week.

Dinners

School dinners continue to be free to children in Year 1. All children must have a school dinner. The children will be encouraged to make different choices (rather than choose the same option each day). We expect the children to be able to make their own choices for lunch but you can of course look at the menus beforehand at home and have discussions with your children about what they may like to choose.

Fridays

As you are aware, the school reward system is to have 30 minutes of Golden Time on a Friday afternoon. Currently children are not allowed to bring in toys from home for Golden Time, if this situation changes we will let you know. Your child may lose minutes from their golden time for not following the school and class codes of conduct. Please refer to the school behaviour policy for clarification. If this is happening frequently we will contact you.

Finally, we look forward to getting to know you and the children over the course of the year. Do not hesitate to contact us via seesaw, the admin email address or by phone if you have any concerns or questions.

Mrs Sholi and Miss Ackroyd - Year 1 Teachers
Mrs Byard, Mrs Chan, Mrs Murphy - Year 1 Teaching Assistants