

# Welcome to Year 1!

Dear Parents,

This year the Year 1 team will be teachers - Mrs Biddle (Monday and Tuesday) and Miss Young (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) and Teaching and Learning Support Assistants Mrs Tudor, Mrs Thorne, Miss Bethell. We are all delighted that your child will be with us in Year 1 this September and thought it would be a nice idea to write down some of the important things to help you prepare for the changes this year.

## Timings

The main school gate will be open from 8.35am - 8.45am and the children will need to walk down to the Year 1 cloakroom and classroom for the start their day. School will finish at 3:10pm and the main school gates will be open at 3pm for you to come onto the playground to collect your child yourself.

## Communication

Letters from school will be sent via School Ping and shown on the school Facebook page and Class Dojo. Please note, we are not sending any paper letters. If this is required, please phone the office.

We will be using Class Dojo to communicate with you throughout the week so please check that either notifications for the app are on or you check it regularly for any updates or messages. As the children will be coming into school on their own in the morning, it will not be possible to speak to a member of the Year 1 team in person so please send any questions to Miss Biddle or Miss Young via Class Dojo or phone the office. Alternatively, you can speak to us in the playground about any queries you might have when you collect your child at the end of the school day.

## Transition from Reception to Year 1

Our aim is to ensure that the children experience a smooth transition from the Foundation Stage to Key Stage One. The Year 1 curriculum builds upon and extends the experiences that children have had in Reception. Learning through play and investigation will continue to be an important part of the school day and the children will gradually be eased into independent, formal learning as the year goes on so that they remain motivated, enthused and eager learners. Learning will take place in small groups to start with and, throughout the year, we shall build on this until we are doing whole class learning.

## Phonics

We follow a daily structured phonics teaching programme and your child will be formally assessed at the end of Y1. We will be holding a meeting about the Phonics Screening Check in the Spring Term and we will send home plenty of resources for you to help support your

children at home in preparation for the test. There will also be an opportunity for you to come in to class for a phonics open morning some time this term to see some of the activities the children do in school.

### Reading at Home

At this stage of your child's development, it is really important that they read on a **regular basis at home** (*5 minutes every night*) so that they practise the reading skills and comprehension taught during guided reading sessions. Please encourage your child to sound out and blend words when reading, as well as asking questions about what they have just read.

We will change books on a **THURSDAY** but please ensure the books and the reading record stays in your child's bag for when we read with them in school. **We will only be changing books once a week.** You can read the books more than once and this will help to ensure that your child develops the skill of blending, segmenting and decoding words. It will also develop their fluency and understanding of the text. **Remember**, if your child reads 4 times a week at home and has their Reading Log signed, they will receive a raffle ticket! Raffle tickets will be added to a draw each Friday, with the chance of winning a prize in Service!

### Reading in School

We aim to hear your child read twice a week in school.

The children will also take part in a guided reading session once a week. They will have the opportunity to read with an adult, group and independently. The children will complete reading comprehension activities to help them understand a text and play various phonics and vocabulary games.

### Homework

In Year 1 the children will not be set any extracurricular activities. Instead, they will be expected to read at home at least 4 times a week and practise their letter sounds. Maths, spellings and additional phonics work will also be sent home on termly basis starting in Term 3.

### P.E and Jumpers

PE for Year 1 will be on a WEDNESDAY. Please ensure your child comes to school wearing their PE kit. The PE kit includes: a white top, daps or trainers, black shorts/jogging bottoms. The children will be going outside at playtime and lunchtime so in the colder weather, they will need jogging bottoms to ensure they are not too cold. They will also need their jumper/cardigan in school as well.

**Please can all jumpers and cardigans be labelled** as many are misplaced and we know that they aren't cheap to replace!

### Water bottles

Please ensure your child brings a **labelled** water bottle to school every day. We keep our water bottles by the sink and the children are given plenty of opportunities to have a drink during the day. All water fountains have been switched off in school so children need a water bottle every day. Children are welcome to take their water bottles home every day but it is preferable they leave it in school and take it home at the end of the week for a wash. Any

water bottles left in school will be refreshed with clean water every day but we won't have an opportunity to clean them.

### **Toilet routines**

The children will be allowed to go to the toilet when they need to during the Autumn Term. After that we begin to help them learn to wait until playtimes if they can. That means they may be asked to wait if it is just before a playtime. We are fair and if they are really desperate they will always be allowed to go!

### **Health Issues and Inhalers**

Please make sure that your child has an up to date inhaler in school at all times and if your child has any health issues please make sure we are aware of them so we can adapt any of our classroom routines accordingly. If we know, we can ensure your child feels at home in Year 1 and it helps avoid any anxiety.

### **Reward System**

As mentioned, we will be using Class Dojo again this year. **If you are not signed onto this, please speak to one of us and we will send you a code to access our class.** The children can earn 'Dojo' points for behaving in the correct way, such as; working hard, being a kind friend, listening well, following the school rules. Throughout the year, they will be able to achieve a variety of certificates to reward them for their positive behaviour. You are able to view your child's Dojo points at home. Class Dojo also allows us to update the 'Class Story' page with information for you. We will keep you up-to-date on what we have been doing in class or if there is anything different about our week (for example, any trips). Please check back on Dojo regularly as it will be updated weekly.

### **Finally...**

If you ever have any questions, please come in and chat to us about it; we are very approachable people and we don't bite! The best way to speak to us is via Dojo or by phoning the office. If you would like a phone call, you can always message on Dojo and we can arrange a suitable time.

Thank you for your support, in what promises to be an exciting year!

The Year 1 Team 😊