



# Welcome to Year 1!



Dear parents/carers,

I hope you have had a lovely summer. I am sure your child is now ready to start the new school year, so welcome to Year 1! This year, your child will be taught by myself, Miss Barnes, alongside our teaching assistant Mrs Hall. We are looking forward to getting to know the children and working together with parents so that we have a very exciting and productive year. The children settled brilliantly during their transition days so I am confident that they will enjoy the new challenges and approaches to learning that Year 1 has to offer.

In line with the rest of the school, I offer an **open door policy** so please do not hesitate to come and see me either before or after school or leave a telephone message with the office for me to give you a call back should you have any questions or queries.

Miss Barnes

## 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. All subjects within the National Curriculum will be taught from the start of the year, including Maths, English, Science, Art, Design and Technology, Computing, History, Geography, Music, PSHE and P.E. However, learning through play will continue to be an important part of the school day and the children will gradually be eased into more formal learning as the year goes on so that they remain motivated, enthused and eager learners.

## Our Morning Routine

Every morning we will put a lunch board outside the classroom. This will show the daily menu options so that the children can choose their lunch for the day. To promote independence skills, we will be encouraging the children to say their goodbyes outside the classroom and then enter the classroom, unpack their belongings and prepare for their school day independently (we understand this may take some training!). The children may then make their way to the carpet where there will be a morning activity on the board. This is also an opportunity for children to change their reading books. We aim to start our register and daily activities at 8.55 ☺

## Diary Dates

### **Welcome meeting**

Please come along to the year 1 welcome meeting which will be held in the year 1 classroom on **Tuesday 3rd September at 3.20pm**. In the meeting, I will discuss this letter in more detail, and explain the year 1 curriculum and expectations. This is also a good opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

### **Phonics meeting**

In preparation for the phonics screening check at the end of year 1, we would also like to invite you to a phonics meeting on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30pm**. Please note, this is a similar meeting to the one held at the beginning of last yet but a refresher might be useful ☺. More information about this meeting will be sent

### Forest Schools

Our Forest School sessions will be on Monday afternoons. We have lots of exciting activities planned for this year so please provide appropriate clothing on these days. Wellington boots or walking shoes are ideal and tracksuit bottoms or leggings would help prevent scratched legs and damaged school clothes. Please ensure your child also has a waterproof coat as we aim to go outside in all weathers.

### PE

This half term, the year 1 children will be having PE with our specialist sports coach every **Wednesday afternoon**. Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school and that all items are clearly labelled.

**Outdoor P.E. Kit:** trainers suitable for the playground and field, black/navy tracksuit bottoms, navy t-shirt and sweatshirt.

**Indoor P.E. Kit:** black pumps, black/navy shorts and navy t-shirt.

### The Peg System

All the children have their own peg which will be put onto our superhero board to promote positive behaviour. All children begin the day on 'Ready to Fly'. They will be asked to move their peg up for displaying positive behaviour, working hard or being kind and helpful. They will be asked to move their peg down if they display repetitive negative behaviour such as shouting out, not following instructions or being unkind to others. Those children with their pegs at the top of the chart at end of the day will receive a small reward.

### Wow Wall

We have a Wow Wall in our classroom which is just inside the classroom door. If your child completes a piece of work in any subject that makes us say WOW, it will be displayed on this wall. They will then be given a little reward note, informing you of their achievement.

### Reading

We cannot stress enough the impact reading has on children's development in all areas, therefore your child will be given a set of reading books and a reading diary to bring home each day. We ask parents to read with their children at least five times per week in order for them to reap the full benefits. We would appreciate if you could write in the diary when your child reads with you at home along with any comments about their ability to read and understand the book. Likewise, we will write in the diary when your children have read with us at school. This is a perfect opportunity for us to communicate about your child's reading progress.



### Homework

Your child will receive a homework book (which can be kept in their book bags) for them to complete any homework set, along with any additional work they wish to do at home. Your child will receive one piece of homework per week. Homework will normally be set on a **Friday** and it will be due in the following **Thursday**. In addition to this, the children will have the opportunity to complete 'My Choice' homework at the beginning of each half term. They will also receive phonics flash cards to practise their sounds and tricky words at home.

### Baxter Bear

Baxter is our class bear. The children will take it in turns to take him home for a weekend. Please help your child to write, draw or stick in a photo to show the other children what they have done over the weekend. We choose to do this as a fun way to help the children develop confidence when speaking and listening to others. It also helps them to practise their writing, reading, phonics and drawing skills.