

Headteacher
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Friday 6th January 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year!

We hope you have had a lovely Christmas break and enjoyed the time with your family. We are very excited to welcome the class back and to continue our learning journey into 2023. We would like to also say a big thank you for all of the cards, gifts and well-wishes we received. They were very much appreciated.

After a term of transition from Reception to Year 1, we will be continuing to meet the demands of the National Curriculum for year 1 as we increase the listening stamina and skills of becoming independent learners with the class. We will be continuing to encourage children's independent and inquisitive skills during this term's topics as we focus on artefacts and events in the past, hence our topic title, 'In the past!'

We hope your children continue to enjoy our topics in year 1 and we look forward to watching them develop academically and socially as we progress through the Spring term of year 1.

Here are a few standard notices and reminders for you, please familiarise yourself with them and do ask us if you have any questions.

A request

If you have any old toys that you would not mind us borrowing to look at and are not too precious, we would really appreciate that! Games like Monopoly and toys from the more recent past would be welcome so that we can compare the older toys with their more modern equivalents! Thank you in advance for your help with this!

Staffing

Ms Butt will continue to be the class teacher from Monday through to Thursday each week and this term, Year 1 will be joined by Mrs Parks on a Friday. The children have seen Mrs Parks around the school in the past and I am sure they will enjoy having her teach them. Mrs Coombe is the class TA and will be in every day.

PE

PE continues as in the Autumn term. Please ensure all PE kits are in school throughout the week as we do like to take advantage of good weather when we have it and will endeavour to teach our sessions outside as much as possible. A pair of jogging bottoms or leggings is also warmer than shorts when children are taking part in PE outside! Having your child's trainers in school all week will be particularly helpful as we do try to do lots of outside activities which benefit from wearing them. If you wish for your child's trainers to go home for the weekend, then please let

us know and we will do their best to send them home with your child. If your child has pierced ears, they must be able to take out earrings on their own as teachers are unable to assist them. If they cannot, they will not be able to take part in PE. Please refer to the uniform policy for details.

Water

Please ensure your child has a named water bottle in school each day. This is very important as your child does need to be able to access a drink when they are thirsty throughout the day. Fruit juice or squash is not permitted but feel free to pop a slice of fruit in!

Birthday celebrations

As part of our healthy school approach, we are no longer able to hand out sweets, cakes or gifts to the class from the birthday girl or boy! We will still mark the special of their birthday with a special sticker to go home with.

Play time snack

Year 1 will still receive free government fruit each day as in the Autumn term. We will be eating this in the afternoons as part of story time. Please provide your child with a piece of fresh fruit or vegetable - named or in a named bag/plastic tub and they will eat this at morning break (please cut up grapes!).

Milk: Sadly, in Year 1 milk is no longer free and must be ordered through Cool Milk by yourself if you wish for your child to receive it. We are provided with a list of children from Cool Milk who should be receiving milk each day. If your child is on this list, they will be offered this with their afternoon snack. If you have stopped ordering milk this year, it would be really helpful if you explained this to your child to save any upset at play time - thanks.

Book Bags:

Please send your child in with their book bag every day. Even though we now have the ebooks accessible at home, we will still like to read the shared book with your child during the week. This means that we can check that your child has the correct sharing book from the book box as they continue to develop as a reader. Due to the limited space in our cloakrooms, please could you continue to limit the size of rucksacks and bags that your child brings to school. Thank you.

Reading

Please send your child in with their book bag every day. Reading Diaries are for you to record your child's reading at home and in school adults will check these and use them to communicate with you when your child has progressed to the next book band in reading.

It is really helpful to read with your child every day, if this is possible! Ten minutes' maximum is plenty in order to support their reading progress as it is little and often that counts towards recognition of sounds and to help key words become embedded. Your child will bring home a book from their book banded box which they can choose to read with you as a shared experience. They will also have a book in a plastic wallet which they can read to you to help them practise their reading skills. This book is linked to their phonics learning and will reflect the phonics that they are learning in school at the time. For some children, we feel that they may need to take home a book from their previous phonics teaching level, in order to build their confidence further, in which case, they may bring home phonics readers that are from a different phonics level to the one that we are meeting in school. It would be very helpful if they could read this

book to you, a few pages at a time, across the week. At the end of the week, it will be exchanged for another one and the process begins again!

Please see the Book Banding letter and booklet for more information on how to help your child at home on the school website. Teachers and TAs will continue to read with your child and share books whilst in school.

Term 3 & 4 RSHE Content for Year One

As we communicated in our Relationships, Health and Sex Education consultation, we will be keeping you regularly informed about content to be taught in the term ahead.

This term, your child will have the following Jigsaw topics:

Term 3	Dreams and goals - setting goals and how to achieve them, working with others, tackling new challenges, identifying and overcoming obstacles, feelings of success and celebration.
Term 4	Healthy Me - understanding the difference between healthy and unhealthy, making healthy lifestyle choices, keeping myself clean, understanding about medicines, crossing the road safely

The vocabulary used will be:

Term 3	Proud, success, achievement, goals Learning, stepping stones, process, dreams Teamwork, celebrate Challenge, feelings Obstacles, overcome
Term 4	Healthy, unhealthy, balanced, exercise, sleep, choices Clean, body parts, toiletry items, hygienic, safe Medicines, trust Safely, Green Cross Code, look, listen, wait.

Please see the RHSE curriculum page of our school website for further information.

Home learning:

In year 1 home learning is predominantly reading. It is really helpful to read and share books with your child and chat about what is going on in the text as mentioned above!

Spare Clothes and Wellies!

We will be outside as much as possible, please ensure your child has a coat in school, especially as the weather is so much colder at this time of year! Wellies are great to have in school, as we use them at times when we are at Forest School and when we are not too! Please also ensure they have a spare set of underwear in their PE bags.

Forest School

Forest School will continue later in this Spring term. Miss Mortimer will be in touch about this with further information.

Medication

If your child uses an inhaler, please ensure that you bring it to the school office in a named container along with the prescription requirements - please ask the office for a form to complete and sign.

Communication to your class teacher

Please email the office if you have any questions or concerns and this will be passed onto us and we will respond via this email. Obviously, with information regarding, absence and changes to pick arrangements please continue to inform the school office.

Collection at home time

Please ensure that one designated adult is on the playground by 3:05pm to allow us to hand your child to you. Many thanks for your help with this.

This information will be reviewed and amended whenever needed and we will inform you as soon as possible. Please feel reassured that we will do our very best to make sure your child continues to have a happy, safe and fun learning time in year 1 with us! If you have any other questions about Year 1, please do not hesitate to contact us. We hope your child continues to enjoy their learning journey this year!

Best wishes

Ms Butt and Mrs Coombe