

# Welcome to Year 1!

Dear Parents,

We are all looking forward to meeting those of you who can make the Open Evening on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July between 6pm and 8pm and/or our Welcome meeting of Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 2:30pm or 6:45pm.

The children have had a great year in Reception this year and Year 1 will give them an excellent opportunity to build on the progress they have made. We are very excited about getting to know your children and for working on all of the lovely things we have planned for the year ahead.

As we begin to prepare for the new school year, we would like to let you know some further information before the children return to school in September. Please bear in mind that this information is true at the moment, but there will be regular updates.

The following staff will be working with the children throughout Year 1:

Miss. Hudson



Mrs. Morris



Mrs. Aston



Miss. Miles



Mrs. Etchells



Mrs. Hiatt



Mrs Rowland



Miss. Webb



## **Uniform**

This remains the same as in Reception. Please ensure that EVERY item is clearly labelled with your child's name and that shoes are Velcro fastening, not lace up.

## **Book bags**

Children will need a small book bag and a drawstring PE bag. Please ensure that these items can be easily stored in a locker. Again, please name these clearly. A key ring may also be useful on the 'Gorsemoor' style bags so that children can easily find their own.

## **PE kits**

Children will need named black or burgundy shorts for indoor PE and outdoors in the warmer weather, white t-shirt, tracksuit for outdoor games, socks for the girls who wear tights and Velcro-fastening trainers (not black pumps). Long hair should be tied back and all jewellery, including earrings need to be removed. It is also useful to keep a spare pair of pants in your child's PE kit in case of accidents.

## **Everyday essentials**

Your child will be encouraged to bring a water bottle to school, which they will have access to at all times. This must be filled with plain still water, as squash and flavoured water encourage pests such as ants. Spillages also cause sticky tables and books and we are also aware that tooth decay is a growing problem in children. The children are also encouraged to bring a healthy snack for morning break time. If your child wants to have milk and toast at break time, then this money must be brought in by your child on a MONDAY for the week in a clearly named and labelled envelope. Please be aware that these prices may change throughout the academic year. The children will also have an afternoon break where they will be given free fruit. Your child will need to bring their reading book, reading diary, sound booklet, water bottle and break time snack to school daily.

## **Lunchtime**

All Year 1 children are entitled to universal free school meals, which means that parents do not have to pay. It is important however, to stress that if you are eligible for Free School Meals, please let our office know as we are able to access additional funding for the children. This can be used to provide your child with additional support and may entitle you with support towards the cost of school trips. The free meal can be a packed lunch or a hot school dinner. Please ensure your child knows what they are having before they come to school. You can also send in your child with a packed lunch from home. Current menus can be accessed on the website. If you would like to have lunch with your child, please order before 9:30am and pay at the office on the day you wish to come in.

### **Start and end of the day**

Children can enter by themselves through the door on the playground near the bat shaped bench from 8:45am. Unfortunately parents will not be able to accompany their child into the school building, however if there is an important message to be passed on this can be given to the TA on the door or via Class Dojo. There will always be an adult in your child's class to greet them. At the end of the day, the children will be come out from the same door by the bat shaped bench apart from Mrs Aston's class who will leave via their classroom fire door. Please wait behind the green carpeted area and we will send your child out to you. The class teacher will always be available at the end of the day should you need to speak to them If someone different is collecting your child, please make sure that the office or your child's class teacher is aware.

### **Homework**

You can expect your child to bring home reading books, sound book and occasionally, a small project for you to all enjoy together over the holidays.

### **Resources to support at home**

A subscription to Education City is available to purchase from school for £10. This gives your child access to games and activities across many areas of the curriculum. It is particularly useful for Phonics games and Early Maths. Oxford Owl ([www.oxfordowl.co.uk](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk)) is a useful site for downloading tablet-friendly books for your child and offers phonic support to parents. Ruth Miskin Set 1, 2 and 3 flashcards are available to purchase from Amazon and cost approximately £5 per pack. The children can also continue to use Mathletics, logging on at home and completing games and challenges.

### **Class Dojo**

Following the success of Class Dojo last year, we will continue to use the program to communicate with parents/guardians. Messages about whole class items such as homework and school trips will be placed on the class story, whilst private messages about individual children will be sent only to their parents/guardians. Please speak to a member of staff if you are still not connected to Class Dojo as this is our primary means of communication with parents/guardians and will help you avoid missing any important messages.

### **Statutory Phonics Check**

The Phonics Screening Check is a statutory assessment which focuses on the phonic skills which have been taught up to the end of Year 1. It consists of 40 words and non-words that your child will be asked to read individually to a teacher. To prepare the children, we will begin to send out words and non-words for your child to practice on a weekly basis. We expect the 2017 phonics check to be delivered around the second week of June 2018. If your child fails to meet the required standard of the check, they will need to re-take the test again at the end of Year 2.

### **Handwriting**

It is school policy that we teach your child how to write in a cursive style. We would appreciate your on-going support at home with this. We do give out handwriting pens in Year 1 to children who write consistently in cursive style.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and we hope that you find the information useful. If you have any further concerns or questions then please raise them with your child's class teacher.

Kind Regards,

The Year 1 Team