



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to class 1! It is great to be back after the holidays and we are all looking forward to an exciting year of learning. We really appreciate your help in settling the children into routines and they have enjoyed investigating their new classroom. This letter is just a quick reminder regarding those routines, expectations and other general information.

Routines and Expectations

Beginning and the end of the day

School begins at 8.50am promptly after which time we will be locking the entrance into the classroom via the gate. The gate will be open from 8.40am for you to drop your children off in the classroom, during which time there will be two adults supervising the children. If you are required to come through the main entrance your child may be given a late mark. If you require additional childcare prior to starting school, you can book in to the '**Before School**' club which runs from **8am-8.40am**. Please contact the office for more details. This service is available for children from Reception - Year 6.

We really want to ensure that we **maximise as much learning time** as possible and the support staff and I will be aiming to begin focused teaching immediately. This may be a phonics session or a morning activity during which time we would like the children to be fully focused on their learning. We will also be encouraging the children to come into the cloakroom **on their own** from the **second half term**. Again, this will help support independence and allow us to get on with learning straight away. We would expect Year 1 children to come in independently from now as they are confident with how we come into school. PLEASE ensure that you are on time and the children have their book bag, reading packet and a water bottle.

Children will need to be collected from the playground at 3.20pm. PLEASE ensure that you move **fully onto the playground** to ensure that there is no blockage up the ramp onto the playground. This will help minimise congestion, accidents and ensure that teachers can see parents/carers.

Open Door Policy

The school operates an open door policy. If you would like to speak to a teacher or a member of the support staff then please do not hesitate to discuss anything with us. It is usually better to catch us at the end of the day.

Uniform, PE Kit and Outdoor Learning

Children are encouraged to wear school uniform which can be bought online from the school website. This year we are also encouraging **Nursery children to attend in uniform**. We believe this will help them in preparation for starting school and feel part of the class alongside the other children.

The children will be having PE twice a week on a **MONDAY** and a **THURSDAY**. PLEASE ensure they have a PE kit available at school. This will include trainers/pumps, white t-shirt, black/navy shorts and additional clothing such as tracksuit bottoms and jumper for outdoor PE.

We will also be taking part in Forest Schools activities again this year. This was hugely popular last year and the children develop excellent skills during these sessions. We will send out further information soon regarding the days of these sessions and any additional kit the children may require.

Phonics and Reading

Children will be given reading books to take home and will begin phonics sessions from next week. Phonics is a systematic approach to helping children develop reading and writing skills. The children will be taught phonics **DAILY**. This will involve learning a new sound and activities that will support their learning. The children should now have received a reading packet, a colour banded book and a home school link book and for parents/carers to communicate with staff. Please write in this book when you have read with your child. Reading is a special time for children and parents to communicate and enjoy. It is great to hear when children have read at home and their enthusiasm about learning to read. The book band the children take home will be one **below** the one they read at school. This is to ensure that children develop fluency and confidence with their sounds through practise of familiar books.

Home Learning

Reception and Nursery children will take their learning journey books home **every Friday** and return them on **Monday**. We are encouraging the children to contribute to this book with parents. This could be through a picture the children make, a photograph of something they have done or an activity they have done. We will then be sharing what we have done on Monday morning. Year 1 children will have a set of spellings to learn and will be encouraged to practise their writing skills with a Weekend News book which will again be shared on Monday.

Sharing Assembly

Please come and join our sharing assembly every Friday at 3.45 to celebrate the children's achievements.

Many Thanks,

The Class One Team ☺

