

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a great start in our new Key Stage 1 classes. The children have settled in very well and are already adapting to their new routines. We have spent this week getting to know each other and exploring our learning environments. We have also made a great start in remembering the school rules and expectations and have explained how and why these may differ from the rules and boundaries at home.

We are aware that a lot of information was shared at the end of the last academic year, so we would like to clarify some key points.

We are proud to introduce the skilled staff in our KS1 team.

Current class teachers:

Class 1: Miss Ford

Class 2: Mr Mildenhall

Class 4: Mrs Rogers

Class 5: Miss Marchant

Class 6: Mrs Khurshid (M-W) and Mrs Watson (W-F)

We are fortunate to have the support of Mrs Mansi across the school until she leaves to start a new job after Christmas. Mrs Mansi is supporting the school in many ways and teaching in every class so that teachers can have release time for PPA (planning, preparation and assessment).

Mrs Hancock and Mrs Rutherford are also providing cover across the classes and will be facilitating the PPA time from January 2027.

As always, we hugely appreciate the support of our wonderful Teaching Assistants (TAs) across the year group too. You may hear your children talking about the following TAs:

Mrs Matthews, Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Stratton, Mrs Griffin, Mrs Stewart, Mrs McDonough, Mrs Bennett, Mrs Gooch, Mrs Smyth and Miss Bradbury.

A few important pieces of information as we settle into the term:

Uniform and daily routines - Please ensure that children attend in the correct, clearly labelled school uniform and bring only the items they need each day.

Bags and cloakrooms - Our cloakrooms are small spaces, and class sizes are larger than in previous years. As the colder weather arrives and children bring coats, we are unable to store large backpacks. Please send a small, practical school bag only. We recommend keeping reading books separate from water bottles, as leaks have caused damage to books and resulted in replacement charges.

We have also noticed toys and other large accessories attached to some bags, including toys on key rings. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate these because space is limited, so please keep bag attachments to a minimum and leave toys at home.

Items needed each day - Once home reading books are issued, please ensure that your child brings their reading book, reading record, water bottle, jumper and coat to school each day.

Thank you for labelling all belongings clearly, as this makes it much easier to return lost items. Please also check regularly that your child has not accidentally brought home another child's belongings.

PE days - All children have an allocated indoor PE session on the following days:

Class 1: Tuesday

Class 2: Friday

Class 4: Wednesday

Class 5: Thursday

Class 6: Monday

In addition to these sessions, ALL children have an outdoor PE session with the external sports coach, Mr Robertson, on Friday mornings.

Children will be asked to wear their PE kit to school on the days when they have PE.

For indoor PE sessions, children need to wear dark shorts (blue or black) and a plain white T-shirt. For outdoor PE sessions in colder weather, they may wear black or blue jogging bottoms with a school sweatshirt. Children may wear trainers to school on these days.

Finding out about the curriculum - There will be different opportunities to find out what is happening in KS1 throughout the year. The first will be information about routines and the curriculum, which will be uploaded to the school website later this week. A text message will be sent when it is available. There will also be an opportunity to meet the KS1 team in the hall on **Wednesday 16th September** between 3 pm and 4 pm. This will be a chance to meet members of staff, see some of the materials that the children will use in their learning, and ask general questions about routines and the curriculum.

Each term, a newsletter is sent out that shares important dates and information for the whole school. A curriculum map will also be shared each term to explain what children are learning in each subject and how they may choose to continue their learning at home. Face-to-face parents' meetings take place in Autumn 2 and Spring 2, followed by the end-of-year report in July. The school website will also be updated to show what has been happening each term.

Reading - Reading will continue in classrooms this week while we establish routines and check that each child is reading at an appropriate level. Children will begin bringing reading books and reading records home next week. Once books have been issued, children will use them for regular reading in school, including paired reading, so it is important that they are brought in every day. Teachers will also record when they have read with your child.

Please take good care of school reading books, as they are shared resources and are very important for children's reading development. If a book is lost or damaged, please let your child's teacher know as soon as possible so that the school can advise you about the next steps. We will be continuing with the charge for damaged or lost books this year.

Love of Reading books - These are special books that children can choose to borrow and enjoy with an adult; children are not expected to read them independently. Information about changing days will be confirmed by each class. Please return the book on the agreed day, or ask to keep it for another week if your child is enjoying a longer book. To prevent water damage, please keep drinks separate from books inside bags.

Phonics and mathematics - The children will move to different rooms for phonics and mathematics lessons. This will quickly become part of their daily routine. The children will register in their classes before moving to another room. Due to the number of children in each year group and class, not all children will need to change rooms. These subjects are taught in year groups so that teaching can be matched closely to the appropriate curriculum level.

Thank you for your support as we establish these routines. We are delighted with the positive start the children have made and look forward to working with you throughout the year. Please do not hesitate to speak to a member of the team if there is anything else you would like to know.

Phonics Screening Check - During the week commencing 14th June 2027, all Year 1 children will take the Phonics Screening Check. Year 2 children who did not meet the required standard when they took the check in Year 1 will also be required to take it again during this week. The Phonics Screening Check is a statutory government assessment that checks children's understanding of the phonics they have learnt up to the end of Year 1. We are sharing the date well in advance because holidays taken during this period will be unauthorised and will automatically result in a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN). Further information will be shared nearer the time. In the meantime, the best way to support your child is to hear them read every day.

Kind regards,

The Key Stage 1 Team