

# Year One Newsletter Autumn 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to school. We hope you had a lovely summer and were able to enjoy some time with your families and friends, even though things have been far from normal. We are excited about having all the class back together again and we will work within the necessary precautions to make the children's experience of school as normal as possible. We hope they will be excited to be back with all their friends. Making sure that everyone is happy and settled is our top priority. Year One is an exciting year when children make lots of progress in their independence and it is always lovely to see them maturing and becoming more confident. Mrs Gulliver will not be returning to school at the moment, but she is really looking forward to meeting all the new Year One children and she will be back with us as soon as she can.

Our weekly newsletter will be sent each Monday and will give information about what is happening in class. If your child has to self-isolate the newsletter will also give you ideas about some short activities you could do at home.

## **Learning through play**

Children will spend most of the day following their own interests in play. They will be able to explore areas such as water, construction, small world and workshop in the classroom, with bigger and more physical play encouraged outside. Through play, children learn vital skills such as sharing, negotiation, perseverance and resilience.

## **Focus Children, Observations and Parent meetings**

In Year 1, we will continue the focus children system which began in Early Years. Starting in the week beginning 28th September, the Year One staff will be focussing on 3 children each week. In the following week, parents will have an opportunity to speak to either Mrs Jones or Mrs Gulliver to discuss how their child is getting on at school. We will send home a letter letting you know that it is your child's focus week and offering you some times to talk to a teacher. For the time being, these meetings will take place by telephone and we will ask you to suggest a convenient time from the list available and provide a phone number where we can reach you. Every child will have a focus week and phone call once in the autumn term and once in the spring term. These phone calls replace the school parent-teacher appointments arranged for children in Years 2-6. We will, of course, revert to face-to-face meetings as soon as this is possible.



## **Reading Books**

Our aim is to foster a love of books and reading for enjoyment and information. Please hear your child read as often as possible (a minimum of three times a week). It doesn't have to be a long session. Little and often works much better. Don't forget to check your child understands the text by asking questions. You could ask them to explain what a word means or talk about their own experience of a similar situation. It is also important to re-read texts to increase fluency and pace.

Just tick the box in the planner when they have read and are ready to change the book. We recommend that you read a book 3 times with your child before changing it. From the third week of term, we will change books on **Mondays, Wednesdays** and **Fridays** if your child has read their book.

### **Maths**

The children will be following the National Curriculum for maths. We will use lots of practical activities, real objects and games to help children embed mathematical concepts. Talking about maths and explaining what you know, why and how, is a vital part of maths learning and something that it is very easy to help with at home. Lists of sums are definitely not necessary! There will be ideas in the homework menus.

### **Science**

The children will be learning about plants and trees. During the term, they will also be learning about seasonal change through lots of outdoor activities.

### **Topic**

Our topic this term is Our School. Our focus for the first few weeks will be on helping the children get to know the Year One classroom and outdoor area. We want them to be as independent as possible, choose their own play activities and select appropriate resources. There will be lots of stories and whole class games to help with settling back into school routines.

### **Religious Education**

Year One's key question this term is: 'Who is a Christian and what do they believe?' We will explore this question through stories and creative activities.

### **Physical Education**

Year 1 will have PE on **Tuesday** and **Friday**. However, it is important that your child has full PE kit in school at all times as occasionally it is necessary to change the timetable at short notice. The PE kit can also be useful as a change of clothes in case your child gets wet. During the Autumn Term we aim for all PE sessions to take place outside if possible, so please ensure your child has clothes suitable for the cooler weather.

Please check your child has the following items in a **named** PE bag for indoor and outdoor activities:

- white t-shirt
- dark shorts **and** jogging bottoms
- dark sweatshirt
- socks
- spare pants
- trainers
- spare hair bobbles

Stud earrings should be removed or taped up. Please provide micropore tape for this. We cannot stress enough how important it is for your child to have **all** their clothes and shoes clearly **named**. This makes them so much more confident and independent and means you get them back if they are misplaced.

## **Forest School**

Year 1 forest school sessions are on **Wednesday afternoons**.

The children will need clothes appropriate for the weather:

- wellington boots/snow boots
- waterproof trousers
- warm, waterproof coat with hood
- warm socks
- hat/sunhat/gloves/scarf



Wellies may be kept in the plastic storage box outside the classroom. Remember to name everything so that mislaid items can be returned to the right person.

## **Homework**

In a few weeks' time we will be sending you homework menus by Parentpay. They will give children a choice of practical activities they can do at home. The menu will include some ideas for practising spelling and we will suggest a few key words each half term to focus on.

## **Things to remember:**

- School starts at **8:40am**. The cloakroom door will close at **8.50am prompt**. A member of staff will be at the door to welcome children. Due to the current situation, we cannot allow any parents/carers to enter school with their children. Should your child need any extra support separating from you, staff are there to help. To help with social distancing, please leave the school grounds as soon as you have dropped off your child.
- Your child will need a school bag to carry their water bottle and fruit. They should also have a book bag/plastic wallet to keep their reading book and planner in good condition.
- All water bottles must be marked with your child's name (nail varnish or Tippex work well).
- Children can bring a fruit or vegetable snack for morning break if they wish. (No snack will be provided in the morning.)
- Children will get an afternoon snack of fruit or vegetable provided.
- School finishes at **3:15pm**.
- If your child is going home with someone who is not on your list of adults collecting please write it in their planner and ensure an adult knows.
- Please let us know if you wish to add adults to the list of who can collect our child.

Quick messages can be passed on when you drop off or pick up your child, but it won't be possible to hold face-to-face discussions for the time being. If you have any questions or concerns, you can email any time. We are really looking forward to working with you and your children and hope that the new routines will quickly become familiar.

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### **Dates for Diaries**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 10.30 am** Welcome to Year One meeting via Zoom. A link will be sent out in our next weekly note.

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October** Harvest Festival collection (details to follow)

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** Pumpkin Competition

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** Photographer in school to take individual photos of children

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October** Break up for half term holiday (Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October is a staff training day)

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November** Return to school

**Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November** Non-uniform day for Children in Need

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December** Break up for Christmas holiday