

Year One Newsletter Autumn 2021

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. We are excited about getting to know the new Year Ones and 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.

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 27th 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 meet a teacher. Every child will have a focus week and parent-teacher meeting once in the autumn term and once in the spring term. These meetings replace the school parent-teacher appointments arranged for children in Years 2-6 in October and February.



English

Our aim is to foster a love of books and reading for enjoyment and information. We are introducing a new way of doing phonics and to match this, we will be establishing a new system of sending books home. Miss McCormack will be sending a letter giving more details. When the system is up and running, your child will be able to choose a new library book as often as they like. This will be a book for you to read to them and enjoy together. They will also bring home a reading book once a week; this is a book they will have practised at school and should be able to read fairly independently. The aim is for you to celebrate their achievements, with the occasional prompt should they need it. You can use the planner to record books you have read together.

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 materials, through our topic, Toys. During the term, they will also be learning about seasonal change through lots of outdoor activities.

Topic

Our topic this term is Toys. We will be talking about our favourite toys, what toys are made from and how toys have changed compared to the ones our parents might have played with. We will be reading stories about toys.

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.

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

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.
- Your child will need a book bag or similar to carry their books and planner to school.
- Children will be provided with a snack of fruit or vegetable during the morning and afternoon so there is no need to send snacks to school.
- We have water jugs and cups freely available to children all day and will be encouraging them to use them as often as they wish. Water bottles are not needed until your child goes into Year Two.
- School finishes at **3:15pm** and children will be handed over to the appropriate adult by a member of staff.
- 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.
- Our weekly newsletter will be sent out each Monday and will give information about what is happening in class.
- Quick messages can be passed on when you drop off or pick up your child, but if you have any questions or concerns, you can email the teachers or we can arrange a meeting.

We really look forward to working with you and your children and to having a more 'normal' year this year!

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Dates for Diaries (more details to follow)

Friday 8th October Harvest Festival collection

Thursday 21st October Pumpkin Competition
Halloween Disco

Friday 22nd October Break up for half term holiday

Monday 1st November Return to school

Tuesday 2nd November Phonics/reading workshop

Friday 12th November Non-uniform day for Children in Need

Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd December Phase 1 Nativity play

Friday 3rd December FOLDS Christmas Fair

Wednesday 15th December Visit to Theatre Royal Pantomime

Thursday 16th December Break up for Christmas holiday