

Year One Newsletter Spring 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year. We hope you all enjoyed the holiday and that the children return to school rested and refreshed. This year the spring term is very short and we have lots to fit in, so we will be working hard!

Learning through play

Children will continue to spend most of the day following their own interests in play. They will be able to explore areas such as sand, 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. Whole class teaching time will increase slightly over the term as we introduce the children to more challenging curriculum content.

Focus Children, Observations and Parent meetings

The focus children system will continue this term, starting in the week beginning 13th January. Year One staff will be focussing on 3 children each week. In the following week, parents/carers will have an opportunity to speak to Mrs Jones 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 times to meet. Every child will have a focus week and parent-teacher meeting once more in Year One, either this term or at the beginning of the summer term. These meetings are instead of the school parent-teacher appointments arranged for children in Years 2-6 in February.



English

Our aim is to foster a love of books and reading for enjoyment and information. We will visit the school library once a week on **Wednesdays** when children will be able to choose a book to share with you. This will be a book for you to read to them and enjoy together; they may be able to read some words, but will generally not be able to manage this book on their own. They will also bring home a reading book once a week; this is a book they will have practised at school three times in a group with an adult. They should be able to read it fairly independently. The aim is for you to celebrate their achievements, with the occasional prompt should they need it. Children will have a plastic wallet to keep their reading book safe and a reading diary where you can record books they have read at home. Reading books will generally be changed on Thursdays or Fridays, so please make sure they are in school on those days.

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 suggestions in the weekly note and the homework menu.

Science

The children will be learning about animals including humans. Children will learn about where different animals live and what they eat (carnivore, herbivore, omnivore). They will learn about the human body in simple terms and the senses. During the term, they will also be learning about seasonal change through lots of outdoor activities.

Topic

Our topic this term is Adventures. We will go on our own adventures to the Railway Museum and Lotherton Hall. We will be talking about real life explorers such as Ernest Shackleton. We will talk about statues that we see around York and why they are there.

Religious Education

Year One's key question this term is: 'What makes some places sacred?' We will explore this question through stories and creative activities, as well as a visit from a parent who will talk about what it is like to visit a mosque.

Physical Education

Year 1 will have PE on **Tuesdays** and **Fridays**. PE kit should be left in lockers. PE kit is:

- white t-shirt
- dark shorts or jogging bottoms
- dark sweatshirt
- socks
- trainers

Long hair needs to be tied back.

Stud earrings should be removed or taped up. Please provide micropore tape for this.

It is useful for children to have a set of spare clothes in their locker, though we do have spares at school as well.

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/gloves/scarf

Wellies may be kept on the rack outside the classroom. Remember to name everything so that mislaid items can be returned to the right person.



Homework

The most important work to do at home is for your child to read their reading book and to share lots of other stories together. On the website, there will also be a short menu of suggestions for things to do at home if you would like to use them. We'd love to hear about what children have been getting up to, so do let us know via Tapestry.

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 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 a member of staff 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 Friday for the following week 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 Mrs Jones or we can arrange a meeting.

We really look forward to a busy and exciting spring term.

Julia Jones

Ann Bradley

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Don't forget to follow us on Facebook and X

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Dates for Diaries (more details to follow)

Tuesday 21st January 3.30-5.30pm FOLD Bingo

Thursday 13th February Y1 trip to NRM

Friday 14th February 3.15pm School closes for half term holiday

Monday 24th February 8.40am School reopens after half term holiday

Tuesday 25th February Maths workshop for parents

Thursday 6th March World Book Day

Tuesday 1st April 2.45pm End of topic celebration in Y1 classroom

Thursday 3rd April Easter Egg decorating competition

Friday 4th April School finishes for Easter holiday