



Happy New Year

January 2026

Dear Parents,

As we didn't necessarily get the chance to see you all at the end of last term, we would like to take this opportunity to say we hope you all enjoyed a happy and healthy Christmas break and that you are ready for the new year and our exciting term ahead. We have a jam-packed term planned, details of which are outlined on the topic web overleaf.

Our 'Far, Far Away' topic has already taken off and the children are busy creating their passport to enable them to travel all around the world. This topic gives us the chance to learn about a number of different explorers as well as looking at the way in which they travelled. The children love seeing what the first boats and planes looked like! This also provides us with our first school trip of the year as, on **Wednesday 25th March**, we will be heading to **Brooklands Museum** where we can see first-hand the changes that have occurred in transportation to enable our explorers to travel further and faster. Further details about this trip will head your way in a separate letter but if you think you might be able to accompany us on this trip, please let us know as soon as possible so we can confirm arrangements.

Whilst you have your diaries out, please don't forget to also make sure you have our class assembly dates pencilled in- **1DG on Friday 23rd January** and **1RG on Friday 13th March**.

We would also like to take this opportunity to give a few reminders of key details and ways that we can work together to support your child this term.

Reading

Just as we did in the Autumn term, we will be following the Little Wandle programme to support children's phonic learning and reading development. The key to the success of this programme is regular practise. On a Monday your child is given a new reading book which they read with an adult. Then throughout the week we will revisit the book a number of times, focusing on fluency, prosody and comprehension. To help them make the best progress possible they also need to be reading this same book at home at least three times during the week. By the time they return the book to school they should be reading fluently and without any hesitation, including expression and intonation where appropriate. Any reading completed at home (whether it be a school reading book or a favourite from home) should be recorded on Boom Reader to help us monitor this. If you misplace the school reading book and are unable to find it, you will be asked to either replace the book or provide a £5 contribution towards its replacement.

Spellings

Every week your child receives weekly spellings (listed on the Home Learning sheet) which will contain words that are related to our phonics teaching and words that follow a spelling rule (e.g. words with the *igh* sound) as well as high frequency words/ tricky words (e.g. the, to, no). Please help your child to learn their spellings at home in a relaxed and fun way- this could involve coloured pencils, pasta shapes and as much mess as you like!

Home Learning

Every Friday your child brings home a folder with home learning activities. Some of these, such as reading, phonics and maths are essential tasks which will help the children build their confidence and fluency so they have the fundamental building blocks to base their learning on. There will also be optional home learning tasks linked to the lessons carried out in class. These may be practical or recorded but anything your child wishes to share can be emailed to the class email account or put into the home learning folder for your child to share during weekly home learning celebrations. Folders need to be returned to class by Thursday each week so they can be checked and sent out again by the end of the week.

PE

It is very important that full, **named** school PE kit (blue T- shirt, blue shorts, socks and trainers) are brought into school every Monday AND LEFT IN SCHOOL ALL WEEK. This is because although we have a time-tabled session in the hall, we also do games outdoors according to the weather! Your child will also need a plain, dark blue or black tracksuit for the colder months. Earrings cannot be worn during P.E. lessons and therefore it would be very helpful if they were not worn in school on that day. Also, if your child has hair longer than shoulder length, please ensure they have their hair tied back or have spare hair bands in their bags. For those children who wear tights to school, it is also important to have spare socks available for PE lessons.

Last term we cheekily added a bit of a wish list to our autumn term letter and we were very lucky to receive some generous donations which we have put to good use. As our topics have changed this term (and because we know some of you will have used the Christmas holidays to have a bit of a clear out!) we thought we might try our luck again. We tried asking Santa but it turned out the teachers hadn't been good enough this year! If you are able to help us out with any of these items, please bring donations to the classroom and if we find ourselves with an excess, we may even be nice and share with other year groups!

As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to come and see or drop us an email.

The Year One Team

Year 1 Wishlist

- Old magazines, newspapers or catalogues for cutting up (please feel free to contribute these throughout the year)
- Holiday brochures (if there are such things these days!)
- Junk modelling materials (cardboard boxes, toilet rolls, egg boxes etc) (please feel free to contribute these throughout the year) – **Please do not give us anything that used to contain nuts!**
- Building or construction sets e.g. wooden trainsets, building blocks, magnetic shapes
- Small plastic animals or figures/ Toy cars/ other vehicles
- Jigsaws (max 100 pieces) and simple games
- Playdough and cutters

Outdoor Specific:

- Wooden cable drums
- Wooden pallets or planks
- Plastic crates
- Plastic piping/guttering
- Tyres
- Logs/Stumps
- Sand pit toys or water play items e.g. tubes, funnels
- Large Buckets
- Old Pots and Pans, cooking utensils, colanders
- Metal watering cans
- Spades and Trowels
- Any seeds/seedlings for us to grow.

If you are unsure, or if you have any other great ideas, please let us know! Many thanks in advance.