



Welcome to Year 1

September 2025

Dear Parents,

What a great start it has been to Year 1 with new teachers, new children, new classrooms and, let's face it, a whole new world! The children returned to school brimming with excitement with stories of their summer holidays and they have embraced the changes and routines brilliantly - settling into Year 1 with ease. The children have enjoyed exploring and utilising all of our areas of learning. For the first half term, our focus is ensuring your child moves smoothly from the Early Years Foundation Stage into Key Stage 1. During Year 1, children will continue to experience lessons and activities led by the teachers and LSAs, as well as child initiated indoor and outdoor learning time each day. This is through continuous provision activities, where the children can explore their own interests and ideas as well as work on skills learnt through whole class sessions.

It was lovely to meet so many of you at Meet the Team but for those of you who couldn't make it, or those of you who may have forgotten some of things mentioned, we have given the key pieces of information below.

Arrival

Arrival routines are designed to make the beginning of the day as happy and smooth as possible. The classroom doors will open from 8.45, ready for a 9am start. From 8.45-9, children complete Morning Activities that range from writing, reading, construction, maths, puzzles and consolidation where we can target specific children if we spot something that we can work on with them so this time is extremely useful and beneficial for your child. The children have already shown that they can be responsible for putting their belongings away in their cubby hole in the cloakroom and we would encourage this to continue. We ask nicely that adults remain outside the classroom.

Home Time Arrangements

School finishes at 3.15pm and children need to be collected from the classroom door at this time. If there is a change to the normal arrangements for your child's collection, please let us know either at drop off or via email/telephone to the office. Please do not rely on sending to the class email address as these may not be checked before the end of the day.

Reading

Reading daily is so important in developing your child's reading skills and they will read to adults, to each other, as a group and as a class throughout the week. We will have regular Reading Practise Sessions during the week where we decode the text, think about prosody (expression in our voice) and comprehension. Hearing your child read daily at home will benefit them enormously too as it will allow them to build confidence and fluency. Please support your child to also develop comprehension skills by discussing what they have read and asking them questions about the text. Any reading you do at home, whether it be the child's school reading book or a favourite bedtime story, should be recorded on Boom Reader. Children will get new books every Monday but we ask that their phonic reading books remain in their book bags every day. It is important that these phonics books are returned on Mondays so they can be read by other children. In addition, children are encouraged to take a "Sharing book" home to enjoy with you. These may be read as many times as you like before being changed. Please encourage your child to change these books whenever you feel appropriate.

Spellings

In order to further support their phonic learning with Little Wandle, your child will receive 6 weekly spellings which will consolidate the words and sounds that we have learnt that week during our phonics lessons. 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! Spelling tests will take place every Thursday with the new spellings going out on Friday's Home Learning sheet. Rest assured, the test is carried out in a very informal way with a real "have-a-go" attitude. Children do not know their own score (or their friend's!) until these are shared with you on their following Home Learning sheet- it is therefore completely up to you whether you share this with them.

Home Learning

Every Friday your child will bring 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. However, 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 where the children present and talk about their hard work. 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. It is not in any way vital that they complete any/all of these additional tasks. You may find that some weeks you have time to fill and you



are therefore looking for something to do. At other points in the year, you may be snowed under and have not time at all! If in doubt, please focus on the key skills of reading, phonics and maths.

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 time-tabled PE sessions on Thursdays and Fridays, this may also be tweaked according to the weather! Your child will also need a plain, dark blue or black tracksuit for the colder months. If your child wears tights, they must also have a spare pair of socks in their PE kit. Earrings and jewellery cannot be worn during P.E. lessons and therefore it would be very helpful if they were not worn in school on our PE days. 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. We would also suggest that all school uniform is named too so when children get changed back from their PE kit, they can identify what uniform belongs to them.

Continuous Provision

As we are running a continuous provision curriculum in Year 1, we like to provide the children with a whole range of materials and objects which they can explore. As you can imagine, this means we need our cupboards (and shed!) to be bulging with exciting things to use and many of these can get used up with unbelievable speed. We have therefore put together a wish list of items which you may no longer have use for at home or which you may have put to the back of the cupboard during your summer sort out! If you are able to help us out with any of these items, please bring donations to the classroom.

We are looking forward to working with your child throughout the year and thank you in advance for your support! Please do not hesitate to come and see us if you have any questions.

Mrs Gifford, Miss Grant & the Year 1 Team

Year 1 Wishlist

- Old magazines, newspapers or catalogues for cutting up (please feel free to contribute these throughout the year)
- 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!**
- Small plastic animals or figures
- Toy cars
- Lego
- Jigsaws (no more than 100 pieces) and simple games
- Playdough and cutters
- Dolls (and their clothes/toys)

Outdoor Specific:

- Wooden cable drums
- Plastic crates
- Plastic piping/guttering
- Tyres
- Logs/Stumps
- Large Buckets
- Old Pots and Pans, cooking utensils, colanders
- Metal watering cans
- Spades and Trowels
- Tarpaulins

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