

# Welcome to Year One!



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year One! We are looking forward to getting to know your child and beginning our journey through Year One. We would appreciate it if you could spend a few minutes of your time reading through this letter to help you gain a better understanding of how life works in Year One.

## Reading

To help the children to develop their fluency and comprehension skills we ask that the children reread their books three times before moving on to a new one.

- The **first read** is for decoding. Children simply read the words and sound out any new or unfamiliar words.
- The **second read** is for fluency. As words have been decoded during the first read, we hope children will be able to read with more speed the second time. Comprehension and full understanding of a text is only possible if words are read at speed.
- Following the children's **third read**, children should have a better understanding of the story. To really help your child please question them about the text, ask about characters, talk about the setting and plot to check their comprehension.

### *Choose Books*

To give the children time to reread their books three times we only change 'Choose Book' on a Monday and a Thursday. We allow the children to choose their own books. They do this by choosing from a selection of books appropriate to their reading level. These books have a coloured band stuck at the base of the cover. We will use the reading diaries to let you know which colour your child should be choosing so please let us know if they are selecting the wrong one or repeatedly bringing home a 'favourite' book.



You may hear your child talk about reading a 'guided reading book' as they will be reading in a guided group each week, along with reading 1-1 with their class teacher. This book does not get sent home. If you have any questions or would like more information about reading please do not hesitate to ask.

### *Library books*

Your child will also be given the opportunity to choose a book from the library on a weekly basis. This will be a free choice and these books are distinguishable by the barcode stuck on the inside of the front cover. Please read this book to your child if the text is too tricky for them to read themselves.

### *Reading Diaries*

Your child will receive a Reading Diary. We will use it to make notes on any reading that your child does at school. We know that 'practice makes perfect' when it comes to reading so please support your child by reading at home with them each day and record it in their diary. Children also love being read to so please frequently read to your child, this can also be recorded in diaries.

As the children are now in Year One we expect them to get their diaries from their book bags when they come into the classroom in the morning and put them on their tables ready for us to check. We would like

them to hand in any letters, envelopes, reply slips etc. so please ensure your child is aware when there is something in there. Unfortunately we are not able to check bookbags each day.

### **Homework**

All homework will be related to the learning that has taken place in the classroom that week. Homework will be handed out in a homework folder on a Friday and collected on a Wednesday. Please remind your child to return their homework in the folder on time each week.

### **Spellings**

Children will be given words to learn at home for 'Spelling Quiz'. Words to learn are written in a small red book and handed out on a Thursday. Please ensure the book is in school the following Wednesday so your child can complete their test in the book. The words the children receive will be based on the sounds the children have been learning in their phonics groups. As a result, children in different groups will have different words to learn. Spellings are only given out when we feel a child is ready so please do not worry if your child does not have them straight away.

### **P.E.**

Both classes will have PE on a Wednesday and Thursday. Please ensure that your child has the appropriate kit, including trainers that fit and outdoor clothes for the colder weather. Please label all PE kits clearly. Longer hair should be tied up for safety reasons. Earrings should be removed before coming to school or your child will be asked to remove them before participating in the lesson. If this is not possible please send your child into school with medical tape so that they can cover up their earrings.



**Please make sure all of your child's belongings, water bottles, lunchboxes, bags and coats are clearly named.**

### **Forest School**

On Tuesday afternoons, children will have the opportunity to visit our wonderful forest school and partake in exciting sessions conducted by Mrs Williams. The children will visit in small groups on a rotational basis and you will be informed of specific dates relating to your child's visit in a further letter.

### **Dropping off and collecting your child.**

We are always happy to talk to you about your child. If you have a quick message that it is important to pass on before school please do so at the door. For questions or less important messages you are welcome to use your child's reading diary. If you would like to talk in depth about anything at all please come and see us after school so we can talk to you properly without interruption. When collecting your child please help us by standing near to our classroom door or coming forward to the door when you see your child at the front of the line. We worry about sending the children off across the playground to you when it is so busy out there. Thank you for your cooperation.

If you have any queries regarding the information in this letter please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

*Mrs K Bryan, Mrs J Strong, Mrs J Little and Mrs R Fairbrother.*