

# Welcome to Year 1!

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 1! We hope that you have all had a restful summer and that your child is looking forward to the new school year. We cannot wait to get to know everyone and begin our journey together. We would appreciate it if you could spend a few minutes of your time reading through this newsletter to help you gain a better understanding of how life works in Year 1.



## Year 1 Curriculum

We are thrilled to be introducing the children to the Year 1 curriculum, we have some exciting plans for this term!



As **artists**, we will be exploring how to create still life drawings. We will examine how marks change when drawing on different surfaces and how tools can be controlled to create different lines and texture.

As **digital creators**, we will be introducing the children to early programming skills. The children will learn how to use individual commands, both with other children and as part of a computer program.



As **technicians**, the children will be introduced to basic food hygiene with an emphasis on the importance of handwashing.

They will be taught different ways to prepare fruit and use tools safely. The children will go on to design a fruit kebab, beginning to record criteria and design choices.



As **geographers**, the children will use a range of map and fieldwork skills to explore the school, its grounds and the local area. We will be exploring the area around our school as part of our field work.



As **historians**, the children will be learning about transport through time. Pupils will explore how innovations and changes within transport have impacted on people's lives and the environment.

As **musicians**, we will be learning about a famous composer from Finland called Jean Sibelius who composed the famous music Finlandia.



As **scientists**, we will be asking the question What is special about me? The children will identify how their bodies change from birth and gain an understanding of the process of growth. They will learn about body parts, senses and explore the

difficulties faced by people who do not have body parts that work well or that are different. They will explore the life of Helen Keller and how her work supports those with disabilities.



As **sportspeople**, we will be learning all about health and fitness and participating in gymnastics and games.

As **theologists**, the children will be learning about Harvest and discussing the question Who made the world? They will give opinions and listen to the opinions of others.



In My Life, the children will be thinking about our feelings, emotions and behaviour. We will also be thinking about and naming people who are special to us and what makes us special.

## Reading

To ensure your child is receiving a book exactly matched to their phonetical ability we are trialling a new way of providing reading materials for use at home. As you may know, at Burlish Park we use the RWInc phonic scheme to teach our children to read. We can now provide you with access to digital versions of the reading books the children are studying in class. This means the children can practise the same letters and sounds at home, allowing them to consolidate and make even better progress. We would therefore like you to make these digital books the priority when reading at home. We appreciate that these books can only be accessed via a device such as an iPad but do hope your child will enjoy reading in this way and the positives outweigh the negatives of using a device to read. We will be sharing more information about how to use the eBooks during the Meet the Teacher session in September.

Priority reading	Other reading materials to provide additional options.
RWInc phonic eBook <i>Login to be provided in September.</i> <i>New book assigned each Thursday.</i>	Choose book – The book with the coloured band Library book - silver or brown label.

In Year 1, the children complete a **Phonics Screening Check**, this will take place during the week of **10.06.2024**. Please ensure your child attends school this week.

### Library books

As in Reception, your child will visit the school library each week. This will be free choice so your child may need the book reading to them. Library books are distinguishable by the barcode stuck on the inside of the front cover. We will visit the library on a **Monday or Wednesday** so please ensure books are in school that day.

### Reading Diaries

Your child will receive a Reading and Homework Diary. Our school expectation is that all children should read at least five times a week at home and that this reading should be recorded in their Reading and Homework Diary. We keep a note of who completes their five reads each week and it would be amazing if every child could do this. We know that 'practice makes perfect' so we really appreciate all the help and support you give your child to read each day. Children love being read to, so if your child is a little tired or not keen to read themselves that day please read to them. This is a great opportunity to test comprehension skills by asking questions about the book you are sharing. Your child will be asked to hand in their diaries each day so we can check and sign them. Please place any letters in the correct page in your child's diary or hand them to us on the way into class. (Unfortunately, we are not able to check bookbags each day). Each week the names of the children who have read/been read to five times will be entered into a hat. The child picked out is rewarded by bringing home Charlie the Chimp for the weekend. We will read with your child in school. This will be recorded in the reading diary so you can see.



### Spellings and Homework.

In Year 1 we begin to provide children with a list of spellings to learn at home each week. These spellings are linked to the phonic sounds that are being taught in phonics lessons. Spellings will be sent out via Seesaw on a Wednesday ready for a quiz the following Tuesday. Children will receive spellings when we feel they are ready so please do not worry if your child does not get any straight away. Weekly Active Maths Homework will start being sent out after October half term once the children have settled in. It will be uploaded onto Seesaw on a Friday and should be completed by the following Friday. Please upload a photo of your child's work onto Seesaw so that they can receive 3 housepoints for completing it.

### P.E.

Both classes will have PE on a **Tuesday** and a **Wednesday**. 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.



### Pencil cases

Children will not need to bring pencil cases to school during the autumn term. We will provide all the stationery that they need.

### Forest School

On Monday afternoons, children will have the opportunity to visit our wonderful Forest School and partake in exciting sessions led 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 just let us know when dropping off your child. We will be checking diaries and Seesaw daily so this is also a good way to contact us. If you would like to talk in depth about anything, please let us know so we can arrange a suitable time with you.

When collecting your child, it is extremely helpful if you would give us a wave when your child comes to the front of the line. Thank you for your cooperation with this. We just want to make sure all children go home safely.

### Trips

We are planning a trip to Worcester Cathedral at the end of the autumn term. Further information to follow.

Please ensure all your child belongings including, water bottles, lunchboxes, bags and coats are clearly named.

If you have any queries regarding the information in this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you, Year 1 Team.

*Mrs Holland, Miss Jones, Mrs Bryan and Mrs Lloyd.*