

Welcome to Year 1!

Dear Parents and Carers,

New to Year 1 Information

The children have settled in well to the new school year and are aspiring to our high expectations. The staff and children have enjoyed the beginning of our exciting and challenging learning journey together. Our main focus this year will be about developing resilience for our children so that they have the strategies to cope with the challenges the Year 1 curriculum will provide. Our focus this half term is **responsibility** and we are encouraging the pupils to take on extra roles to help in the school.

Timetable

Please remember the soft start to the day begins at 8.40am and children must be in the classroom by 8.50am. This is designed to get your children ready for learning! It is our opportunity to support learning with fun activities or to help close the gaps of prior learning. If your child arrives after this time they must go to the office to sign in.

Equipment

The school provides children with all the stationery and resources that they will need during their learning, such as pencils, handwriting pens and rulers.

Homework

Homework is set on a Friday and needs to be completed and returned on a Thursday. Project based homework may be allocated longer than a week to complete. We encourage our children to take pride in their learning at home and continue to show excellent presentation. If your child needs help or you would like support, please feel free to pop in to talk to us, so that we can help you support your child. Mrs Bremner is hosting a parents' coffee afternoon on Friday 23rd September 2016 at 2.30pm and she is keen to consult parents about their views on homework. Please come along!

PE

Please ensure PE kits are in school every day, as this gives us the opportunity to be flexible depending on the weather! Our normal PE days in Year 1 are Monday and Thursday. Please make sure children have appropriate PE kit (t-shirt, shorts, tracksuit bottoms, jumper, indoor and outdoor shoes) and that all kit is labelled with names. Girls must take their own stud earrings out before taking part in PE.

The Curriculum

The whole curriculum is on our whole school plan that you can find on the school website www.sarratt.herts.sch.uk where you can find details of the topics we will be covering in each subject. This gives you an opportunity to look ahead, should you wish to do prior research or visits. We are following the Cornerstone Curriculum and you can find out more information about this on their website www.cornerstoneseducation.co.uk.

English

We will be working very closely with the children to develop their writing across the curriculum. If particular gaps appear we will discuss these with you. This year, we are having a whole school drive to improve spelling and develop strategies for spelling. We will encourage children to practise these strategies at home; if you require further information about these, please do come and ask. Other areas to work on are: letter formation and developing vocabulary through reading.

Reading

Please remember that it is part of your child's homework to read daily at home, to help foster a love of reading. If your child is a confident reader, please make sure they are reading aloud to develop their speaking skills. www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home is a great website for tips on how to support your child with reading at home. www.booktrust.org has a useful list of recommended reads for each age group.

Maths

Within Maths, we will be covering all the main strands as outlined on the long term plans. We will also be ensuring that we are developing children's mental maths skills, for example addition and subtraction skills, inverses and number facts. Children in Year 1 need to be secure with number bonds to 10 and number recognition. A great website to use to practise these is www.topmarks.co.uk.

Science

Science is now being taught through the Cornerstones Curriculum topics. Please see the long term plans on the website to see the Science topics we will be covering this year. It is fantastic when children have carried out some prior learning by visiting museums and exploring websites – and we love to listen to them share their ideas in class!

Foundation subjects

Like Science, the Foundation subjects are now being taught through the Cornerstones Curriculum topics. Please see the long term plans on the website for the Geography, History, Music, Art, ICT and D&T topics we will be covering this year. We will continue to follow the Hertfordshire syllabus for R.E. Again, it is great when children have had some experience of these topics and can offer valuable contributions to our lessons.

Communication

We always appreciate open communication with our parents, whether that is jotting a note in a reading record or catching us at the door. If for any reason you need a longer meeting, please ask to make an appointment. We value working in partnership with you and thank you for your support.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Many thanks

Miss Wallek