

## Welcome to Year 1

We wish your child every success for the coming year and trust that they are settling well into Year 1. We aim to make the transition between Early Years and Key Stage 1 as smooth as possible.

### The Year 1 teaching team

Pear Class Teacher: Miss Perry  
Apple Class Teachers: Mrs Adams/ Mrs Marshall  
Cherry Class Teachers: Mrs Whelan / Mrs Martin  
Olive Class Teacher: Miss Jane  
Teaching Assistants: Mr Noyes, Mrs Bentham, Mrs Gunnell, Mrs Clark,  
Mrs Billson, Miss Bates and Miss Read.

### Topic Work

Every term we put our skills planning on the school website so that you can see our areas of focus. We plan suitable activities around these themes or 'topics'.

During the **Autumn Term**, our topic will be '**Out and About with the Jolly Postman**'

We start by introducing children to all the new routines and expectations in Year One. We focus on our learning around the 'The Jolly Postman' by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. The Jolly Postman encounters a variety of fairy tale characters on his journey and we study some of these fairy tales, incorporating them into our writing and number work. During the term, the children will look at the work of artist Paul Klee and local historical figure, William Allen. We will also learn lots of geographical vocabulary and some mapping skills.

During the **Spring Term** our topic will be '**To Infinity and Beyond**'

Our focus will be Space and the children will find out about Neil Armstrong as well as training to become 'astronauts'. In addition to learning many facts about Space, we will also write stories about aliens.

During the **Summer Term** our topic will be '**Woodland Wonders**'

This topic will enable us to make the most of our woodland areas and learn about trees and flowering plants. We are planning to visit the British Wildlife Centre and learn all about native animals such as foxes, badgers and hedgehogs.

### Mathematics

We follow a mastery style and our daily mathematics sessions are taught using a concrete, pictorial and abstract approach. All new concepts begin practically with the children using equipment such as counters, bead strings and tens frames. We then move onto picture representations of numbers and concepts before finally looking at calculations. We begin the year practising place value, addition and subtraction within 10 and shape. As the children become completely secure with this, we move into larger numbers and multiplication and division in the following terms. There is much more information on the school website including video clips demonstrating our calculation policy.

Maths homework will be set once a week, after half term. This will focus on practising the skills taught that week. Please encourage your child to keep playing Numbots too as it helps to develop the children's understanding of number. The passwords are in your home school diary.

### English

Children participate in a phonics session daily following Read Write Inc. When the groups are updated in a few weeks, a letter will be sent home letting you know which sounds your child is working on. Please refer to this link for help with pronouncing the sounds correctly.  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYx1CyDMZSc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EYx1CyDMZSc). There is a sheet included at the back of your reading diary to help you to know the sounds in set 2 and set 3.

Our cross-curricular approach provides a wide variety of opportunities for development in literacy. The discrete language skills include:

- Vocabulary extension
- Spelling strategies
- Phonological awareness
- Word recognition
- Grammatical awareness in sentence work
- Sentence construction and punctuation

To support the learning that is occurring in school we will send home words and spellings for children to learn to read and write as the year progresses.

### **Handwriting**

During Year One, we will be introducing the children to a cursive script; we will encourage them to use lead-ins and lead-outs. We will also be working on writing the letters in the correct position on the line and making their letters consistent in size.

### **Books**

We will listen to your child read each week. Sometimes this will be in a group situation focusing on specific reading skills whilst at other times reading one to one with an adult. A range of books will be sent home for them to share with you. Reading is a vital part of your child's development and your support is very much appreciated. It would be lovely if you could read for at least ten minutes each night. We encourage the children to change their books independently and will provide an opportunity for them to do so daily. Please prompt your children to change their books when they need to.

### **PE**

Year 1 has PE slots every day of the week so please ensure your child has a **fully named** PE kit in school. Even if the weather becomes cold, we still like to take the children outside for PE so it may be useful if they have a tracksuit for these occasions.

### **Fruit and Water**

All children will have the opportunity to eat fresh fruit during the morning. Children should bring in a named water bottle from home so that they can drink throughout the day. Sports bottles are preferable to screw tops due to spillages!

### **Uniform, Hats and Sun-cream**

Please ensure **all** uniform, including coats, are clearly and permanently named. If sunny please provide your child with a named sunhat and apply sun-cream before school as we will not be able to apply it for them.

**And finally...** we hope you have found this information useful and please message us if you have any questions or concerns either by email through the school office or via the home/school diary. We will check the diaries weekly but if you have an urgent message - please get your child to walk in with their diary in their hand and ask them to tell the teacher there is a message in there. Thank you for all your support and we look forward to having a year of fun learning with your child.