



Thursday 7th September 2023

Year 1 – Welcome!

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and welcome to what is going to be a brilliant year in Year 1 – Squirrel Class! We cannot wait to get to know a fantastic group of children and parents. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to Year 1 and familiarise you with the changes that Year 1 brings and the new routines this year.

Working with the children this year will be Mrs Evans and Miss Miller. Mrs Evans will be teaching on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Miss Miller will be working 3 days a week and will be teaching the class on Wednesday and Thursday. We are extremely lucky to have two teaching assistants based in our classroom with us – Mrs Chadwick and Mrs Walker.

Drop off and collection times

In Year 1, your child will arrive to school between 8:40-8:50am. You will need to drop off your child at the Year 1 external classroom door. The children will have morning activities to complete so it is vital they are on time. Your child will be picked up at 3:30pm from the barn doors on the playground.

PE and uniform

This half term, the children will have PE on Tuesday and Thursday. The children will need to come to school in their PE kits on the days that they have PE and remain in their PE kits for the rest of the school day. On PE days, long hair should be tied back and earrings must be removed before school if children are unable to do this themselves.

In Year 1, there are a few changes to the uniform policy. Your child will be required to wear a shirt and a tie instead of a polo t-shirt. Please make sure that all uniform is clearly named as it is the children's responsibility to look after their items.

Reading

Your child will be bringing home a reading book. You may have noticed last year, children's ability in reading can change very quickly so we will be making sure over the next few weeks every child has the correct book for their present ability. We will change reading books on a Monday and a Thursday.

Your child will also be in a guided reading group session 2-3 times a week. These sessions will allow your child to read a decodable book that links directly to the sounds they know. Just like in Foundation, your child will have a physical reading book and an e-book. E-books are assigned every week.



Homework and Show and Tell

In addition to reading, your child will have weekly spellings and games/activities to complete on EdShed. At the end of each term, the children will complete a spelling test of 20 of the words that they will have been learning.

At the beginning of each term, the children will receive a grid of topic-based homework activities. Your child can choose whatever task they would like to do from the sheet each week. Your child will have time to show their fantastic work to the rest of the class during show and tell should they wish to. Their work will then be displayed on the class wow wall for the week!

Homework should be brought in on Monday and show and tell will take place every Wednesday afternoon. Show and tell can include any homework they have completed from the topic-based task sheet, an exciting certificate or award that they may have been presented with outside of school. Anything for show and tell can also be emailed to us at kmiller@stanwickprimary.org.uk or jevans@stanwickprimary.org.uk.

Transition from Foundation to Year 1: Rainbow Challenges and Learning Journals

The transition from Foundation to Year 1 is incredibly important and it is key that it is done right. Our aim is to ensure that the children experience a smooth transition from the Foundation Stage to Key Stage One. The Year 1 curriculum builds upon and extends the experiences that children have had in Foundation. Learning through play will continue to be an important part of the school day, and the children will gradually be eased into more formal learning in the mornings as the year goes on so that they remain motivated, enthused and eager learners. At Stanwick, we are passionate about child-initiated learning through play. In Year 1 this takes place through continuous provision, known as independent learning time and rainbow challenges.

The rainbow challenges help to promote independence by allowing the children to complete challenges linked to their previous learning.

Each area has a colour:

Marvellous Maths is RED

Funky Phonics is ORANGE

Investigation Station (Topic) is YELLOW

Creative Studio is GREEN

Finger Gym (Fine Motor) is BLUE

Each week, the children will have to complete a challenge task from each of the provision areas. The children will have their own Learning Journals where they can stick in their challenge sheets and photos of their creations. When the children have completed all the tasks, they receive a certificate during our Rainbow Disco Celebration.

Alongside this, the children will also have access to the following areas in the afternoons: role play, sand/water, construction and blocks, small world play and an outdoor area. Having access to these areas is extremely important for the children's learning, well-being and for helping them in the vital transition from Foundation to Year 1.



Outdoor Learning

On Fridays we will be taking part in our weekly outdoor learning session. Throughout the week, we try to incorporate outdoor learning into many of our lessons. Please can you send a named pair of wellies into school as soon as possible.

Water and book bags

Please can your child bring in a filled named water bottle every day. They have access to this throughout the day and we do our best to encourage them to drink regularly. Can your child also have their named book bag with them each day with their reading book and reading record.

We are looking forward to an exciting year with an amazing group of children. Communication between home and school is vital in ensuring your child has the best support possible. We are keen for you to feel able to talk to us about any concerns or queries you have. We are available on our emails which are: kmiller@stanwickprimary.org.uk and jevans@stanwickprimary.org.uk , or feel free to talk to us after school.

Kind regards,

Miss Miller and Mrs Evans
Year 1 Class Teachers