



Our Ref: IHVV/2021

2 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 1 Term 1 - Welcome!

Welcome back to school and welcome to what is going to be a brilliant year in Year 1! I am thrilled to be in Year 1 and cannot wait to get to know a fantastic group of children. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your children to Year 1 and familiarise you with some of the new routines this year.

Class arrangements

Working with the children this year will be myself and Mrs Evans, who is our Teaching Assistant. I will be teaching the class Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays and Mrs Evans will be teaching the class on Fridays when I have my planning time.

Drop off and collection times

To allow for social distancing, we will have staggered arrival and pick up times during the school day. In Year 1, your child will arrive to school between **8:45-9am** and will be picked up at **3:15pm**. You will need to drop off and collect your child from the Year 1 classroom door and follow the one-way system around the school. Thank you in advance for your co-operation.

PE

This half term, the children will have PE on **Tuesday** and **Wednesday**. 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. PE lessons will take place outside this term, so please make sure your child is wearing warm clothing. On PE days, long hair should be tied back and earrings should be removed before school if children are unable to do this themselves.

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Rainbow Challenges

This year we are introducing rainbow challenges to Year 1 to support the children in trying a wide variety of activities during continuous provision. The rainbow challenge helps to promote independence by allowing the children to place the correctly coloured lollipop stick into their envelope when they have completed a task.

Each area has a colour:

Maths is **RED**

Investigation is **ORANGE**

Writing is **YELLOW**

Creative Studio is **GREEN**

Finger Gym is **BLUE**

Each week the children will have to complete a challenge task from each of the provision areas. The aim for the week is to complete all of the challenges and make a rainbow! To start with the children will have 3 tasks a week to complete and gradually we will build up to 5.

When the children have completed all of the tasks they receive a rainbow challenge sticker during our rainbow celebration! Alongside this, the children will also have access to: role play, sand/water, a reading corner, construction 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 Reception to Year 1.

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. Currently, our aim is to change reading books on a **Tuesday** and they will then be placed in a quarantine box for 72 hours before being ready for another child. Due to the ever-changing guidance, this day is subject to change. I appreciate your understanding and patience in this matter. As a school we will do our best to be continually assessing the needs of reading across the school. Our hope is to be able to change books twice a week but this will depend on how many books are available due to quarantining them.

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Homework

In addition to daily reading, your child will have weekly spellings to complete. Your child will be tested on their spellings on a **Friday morning** and a new list of spellings will be given out ready for the next week. There will also be a sheet of topic-related tasks for your child to choose from. They can choose whatever task they would like to do from the sheet. Your child will have time to show their fantastic work to the rest of the class during show and tell should they wish to!

Water

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.

I am looking forward to an exciting year with a brilliant group of children! I am keen for you to feel able to talk me about any concerns or queries you have. Due to the current climate and to allow for social distancing, as a school we ask for you to opt for phone calls and emails if you have any questions where possible.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Holmes

Year 1 Class Teacher

