



Welcome to Year 1!

A big, warm welcome to Year 1!

I hope you have all had a lovely summer holiday and the children are excited to be joining our class. I am thrilled to be staying in Year 1 this year. We have some exciting topics that we study so I can't wait to get started!!

As a mother myself, I know how important it is to be able to contact your teacher if you have questions or concerns, so please don't hesitate to reach out either via phone or ask for a meeting face to face. I am always more than happy to help!

Year 1 Staff

Mrs Porter (Class Teacher)

This will be my sixth year at our school and, I have to say, I have thoroughly loved my time at BVPS so far! Before gaining my position here in 2020, I was in another school for a number of years and have lots of experience, both as a teaching assistant and a teacher. In addition to being the Year 1 class teacher, I am the subject leader for Maths and Art and I am the Eco leader within school. I particularly enjoy teaching art and design and it is a passion I often take part in outside of school too! I really believe the children learn more when they are having fun, so I enjoy making lessons memorable- usually with a silly aspect- such as silly dances or songs! (Be prepared for lots of embarrassing stories!)

Mrs Smith (Class Teaching Assistant)

Mrs Smith has worked in Year 1 for many years, both in our school and previous schools. She has a great understanding of what is expected in Year 1 and how to help the children achieve these targets. She will be supporting in class each day, working with small groups of children and providing one-to-one support. In addition to this, Mrs Smith will be teaching on a Thursday afternoon whilst I have planning time.

Miss Turner (Class Teaching Assistant)

Miss Turner is a teaching assistant apprentice and will be in our class full-time this year. She is bursting with optimism and the children already adore her! She will be supporting in class each day, working with small groups of children and providing one-to-one support.

Important Dates

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check- June 2026

Phonics is a big focus in Year 1. The children learn how to read and write many words. At the end of the year, the children have a statutory assessment called a Phonics Screening Test. The check is designed to give teachers information on how your child is progressing in phonics. It will help to identify whether your child needs additional support at this stage, so that they do not fall behind in this vital early reading skill.

Important Information for Year 1

PE Days

Year 1 pupils will have their PE sessions on Monday and Friday afternoons.

Pupils should bring their full PE kit and trainers (please see school website for details) at the start of term and leave it in their locker until the end of the half-term. The children should have a set of PE trainers in their PE bag because we take part in physical activity every day.

If at any point PE kits need to go home for cleaning/after-school PE club etc., please ensure that they return to school the next day as we do Fundamental Movement lessons each day.

Homework

Homework is a valuable way of enhancing your child's learning outside of the classroom as well as helping them to develop their independence and organisational skills.

Each child will receive a 'homework pack' that will contain their homework for the whole half term.

Year 1 pupils will receive the following homework:

Maths- Children will be receiving a piece of Maths homework each week. This homework will be given out on a Friday, and it will need to be returned for marking each Thursday. This work is always based off what we have done in class and never new learning.

Spellings/Phonics - Every Friday children will receive 6-8 spellings which they will have to learn ready for a test the following Friday. These spellings will contain 6 words containing sounds we are focusing on in phonics that week. In addition, there will be 2 High Frequency word spellings. These are words that the children need to learn before the end of Year 1. A list of these words can be found on the school website.

Please ensure children practise their spellings at home- this can be through games or written. Alongside this, pupils will work on these spellings during Phonics lessons in school. Our first Come learn with me session will give you lots of ideas in how to do this.

Reading - Shared reading is one of the most valuable ways you can support your child's learning. We strongly encourage you to spend a little time reading together every day, as it not only builds skills but also creates special moments to enjoy stories and explore new ideas. Children will bring home their guided reading book, a free reader, and they'll also have the chance to choose books from our school library.

Please take the opportunity to read and discuss these books with your child, helping them develop a love for reading while supporting their progress. When your child finishes a book, ensure it is returned so they can discover something new.

We ask that you record each reading session in their reading diaries. This helps us keep track of their progress and lets us know where extra support may be helpful. Your involvement at home truly makes a difference!

Year 1 Online Safety

Although they are young, children in Year 1 are becoming more confident online—watching videos and playing games. While the internet offers great learning opportunities, it also comes with risks like inappropriate content, online bullying, and in-app purchases.

Top Tips for Keeping Your Child Safe

- **Set Parental Controls** - Use parental controls on devices to restrict access to unsuitable content and manage what your child can view or download.
- **Talk Regularly** - Have open conversations about what your child is doing online, who they are talking to, and remind them to come to you if something makes them feel uncomfortable.
- **Balance Screen Time** - Encourage a healthy balance by setting clear boundaries for screen time and suggesting alternative activities, such as outdoor play, reading, or creative hobbies.
- **Check Age Ratings** - Always look at the age ratings for games, apps, and videos to make sure they are appropriate for your child's age and maturity level.
- **Be Alert to In-Game Spending** - Explain to your child about in-app purchases and make sure password protection is enabled to prevent accidental spending.
- **Encourage Kindness Online** - Teach your child the importance of treating others with respect and kindness online, just as they would in person, and discuss what to do if they witness or experience online bullying.

I really enjoyed teaching the children for our transition sessions in June and July! They are a delightful class and want to succeed! I am really excited to get to know them over the next year and for us to work as a team in supporting your children.

Kind regards,

Mrs Porter, Mrs Smith and Miss Turner