

Welcome parents and carers,

Wow what a wonderful start to the year, Apple class have made an excellent transition into year 1 and we are delighted to see them so smart, keen, focused and ready to learn. I am excited to be supporting all the pupils on their journey in their second educational year as are the Key Stage One team and all the staff in the school. We will require your support and assistance on this journey with different learning opportunities through the weeks, months and year.

Snacks, water and milk: Children will be given a piece of fruit or alternative healthy snack/low sugar snack to eat at playtime. Alternative snacks such as toast, crumpets, or pancakes can be ordered via ParentPay. We understand the importance of staying hydrated for concentration and learning, so please ensure your child brings in a filled **water** bottle every day. These will be kept in a bottle holder near the classroom for children to access throughout the day and take out at breaks. Milk is also available to each child in Key Stage one and payment for this can be made via ParentPay.

PE: Sessions will take place on Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings. On these days, children must come to school wearing their full PE kits. Tracksuits are now a compulsory part of our school uniform. This also includes red shorts depending on the weather, white school PE t-shirt and black trainers, only on PE days.

Reading: As a school, we have a huge love for reading and we actively encourage daily reading. The expectation is that your child read's every night and you talk to your child about what they have read to encourage the development of their comprehension skills. Reading records are checked regularly, please ensure that you are signing records.

We will send home one supportive reading book, which will progress throughout the year, one phonics reading book to accompany the previous weeks learnt phoneme (sound) and a free choice library book. We will change the phonics book weekly, but if your child finishes either of the other books, they can let a member of staff know and we will change them. Their weekly phonics book has 'Green & Red' words at the front of the book. Please try to support your child reading these, each time they read the book.

Phonics: A small purple book will be sent home on Tuesdays containing this week's phoneme. It will also have between eight and 10 accompanying words containing the sound. Please use this book as part of your daily read and support them learning the sound and words, through 'segmenting & blending', 'reading by sight' and 'read, say, cover, spell' strategies.

Spellings: These will be sent home every Monday and will be a mixture of the spelling rules that we are learning in class, and some common exception words. The expectation is that children will practise their spellings. Your child will be tested on their spellings every Friday. These will be placed in your child's Reading Record. In addition to this, I will include our weekly 'WOW Words'. These will also be posted every Monday on Class Dojo. These words will be linked to our learning throughout that week. Please ensure that you talk to your child about the words and that you are using them in everyday conversations.

Knowledge Organisers: We are pleased to say that knowledge organisers are being used in school to support pupils with their learning, and they will also be shared with you as parents so that you can see what your child is learning and what they are expected to know. They are a valuable tool for keeping children, teachers, and parents focused on the key knowledge for the topic. Knowledge Organisers help pupils by providing focus in their learning, encouraging recall, developing independence, and promoting vocabulary growth. For parents, they are especially useful in reinforcing learning at home and strengthening the home-school partnership we aim to build. By using Knowledge Organisers, pupils are better able to remember and embed their learning, so it is important to discuss them regularly at home. They will also be placed in the pupils' books at the start of each topic, supporting their understanding and so they will be familiar with them during discussion.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via 'Class Dojo' or make an appointment to see me. A member of the team will also be on the door daily, for quick questions. Please remember that on Class Dojo teachers set 'quiet hours' for evenings and weekends.

Many thanks in advance for your support and engagement. I am looking forward to spending a wonderful year learning with Apple Class.

Kind regards,

Mr. Smith.

Apple Class.