

Dear Parents

## **Welcome to Year 1!**

All the children seem to have settled in well and are enjoying the activities in their new classroom. To ensure a smooth transition from Reception to Key Stage 1, the children still have choosing time built into their day and can use the creative table, reading garden, writing area, listening centre, computers and construction toys.

## **The Curriculum**

Curriculum newsletters for each half term can be found on the school website under Year 1.

## **PE**

Thank you for sending in PE kits promptly and ensuring everything is named. Our PE day in Year 1 is on a Wednesday. If your child has earrings, please ensure they have taken their earrings out on those days or supply plasters or tape for us to cover them up. We do go outside regularly for playground games so P.E. kits including pumps need to be in school every day.

## **Homework**

Homework is as it was in Reception – given on a Thursday and due back on a Tuesday. It is a Maths game, similar to the games your child brought home in Reception, but now at Level 1. Please play them as many times as your child wants or you have time for and **comment on the sheet in the red homework folder** about their enjoyment and understanding. The games are extremely useful for practising the mental maths strategies your child needs.

## **Reading**

Please try to read with your child on a daily basis. Your child's reading book will be changed twice a week if you have signed it. The change days are written in the front of the reading record and, as always, this is a useful form of home/school communication.

Your child has more tricky words to learn this year and a sheet is enclosed with all the tricky words from Phase 2, 3, 4, and 5. Please practise reading them by sight so that your child can find and read them quickly in their reading books. Once your child can read them, they need to be able to spell them.

An important part of learning to read is enjoying books and stories, so each child will be given the opportunity to take home a library book each week for you to read to them. Library day is **Tuesday**. Please return the book each Tuesday and it can then be changed.

### **Phonics**

The phonics card we have been working on during the week will be put in your child's phonics pack on a Wednesday – please practise with your child regularly. The phonics in Year 1 is quite demanding and your child will need to keep up with the alternative spellings for the sounds they learnt in Reception. Please help your child to practise reading and writing the words on the list.

In Year 1 phonics carries on as in Reception with a daily 30 minute lesson. There is no formal spelling test until the summer term.

### **Water Bottles**

Please ensure your child has a named water bottle every day.

### **Oliver Bear**

Every weekend a child in the class is chosen to take Oliver Bear home. Please help your child to write about their weekend with Oliver and draw a picture (or take a photograph) in the accompanying book and return to school on the Monday.

Finally, if you have any questions or worries at any time, I am always around after school or I am on the Infant Doors on a Friday morning– please, don't hesitate to come and see me.

Thank you for your support.

Mrs Sarah Coxon (class teacher)