

Dear Parents

Welcome to Year 1!

We've certainly had a very different start to the school year! I just want to say a huge thank you to everyone for your support during the first few weeks of term. Mrs Tiffen and I were just getting settled in class with the children and then we all had to self-isolate. I'm very proud of the children for coping so well at home again with their home learning. They've worked hard and it's been lovely to see photos of their work whilst I've been at home too. Thank you to everyone who connected to Class Dojo. I'm hoping to keep this up and running to upload Phonics and Maths homework each week.

As I've said before, the children are now in Key Stage 1, which includes Years 1 and 2. The curriculum is more formal than in Reception class but Mrs Tiffen and I do ensure that your children have access to free choice activities during the school day. These include phonics, reading, writing, maths, computing and creative activities. The children were settling in well before our quarantine and were enjoying the new activities.

Red bags, water bottles and snacks

Just a reminder that the children should **not** bring their red school bags into school at the moment. Please ensure they have a filled water bottle every day. The children may also bring a healthy snack. Cereal bars are now allowed in the infants too.

The Curriculum

I have uploaded our curriculum newsletter for this half term onto Class Dojo. Our new topic for this half term is 'Animals.' Subsequent curriculum newsletters can be found on the school website under the Year 1 section.

PE

Thank you for sending in PE kits promptly and ensuring everything is named. Our PE days in Year 1 are Mondays and Fridays. If your child has earrings, please ensure they have been taken out on those days or supply plasters or tape for them to be covered up. We will be going outside regularly for P.E. in the near future.

Homework

Due to the current situation with Covid 19, it is not possible to send Maths games home for homework. Instead I will upload a single Maths sheet onto Class Dojo on a Thursday for the children to complete. This will consolidate our learning from throughout the week. Please can you send me a photo of your child's completed work either on Class Dojo or via email by the following Tuesday. Thank you. I will NOT be sending red homework folders home for parent's comments until further notice.

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. **Please only send your child's reading book back to school on their day**

for exchange. Please can you ensure reading books are kept in the plastic bags provided. Thank you.

Tricky words

Your child has more tricky words to learn this year. Your child will be given a zipper bag with their tricky words. 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. These bags can be kept at home and Mrs Tiffen will send new words home in reading packs each week. Please can you ensure new words are put into your child's zipper bag. Thank you.

Bugclub

There are plenty of books for your child to read online on Bugclub.

<https://www.activelearnprimary.co.uk/login?c=0>.

If you have lost your child's login details please ask me. Bugclub is great for reading practice as the children are also asked comprehension questions about the books. They also enjoy earning tokens!

Library

Unfortunately we will not be sending Library books home until further notice.

Phonics

At the moment in Phonics we are recapping Phase 3 vowel sounds.

Shortly we will begin Phase 5 sounds. When we do, the children will get a small purple book similar to those in Reception. Please can this be kept in their plastic reading pack for the moment. Mrs Tiffen will stick new sounds into the children's purple books to practise at home. The Phonics in Year 1 is quite demanding and your child will really benefit from lots of practise please. Each Wednesday I will upload a list of words for each sound onto Class Dojo for your child to practise reading and writing at home.

In Year 1 there is no formal spelling test until the summer term.

Sumdog

At school we now have full access to Sumdog at www.sumdog.com

This is a fun way for your child to practise their maths skills. Again if you can't find your child's login details please ask me.

Dudley dog

The children have been introduced to our class dog, Dudley but sadly for the moment, he cannot come home with different children for the weekend. I hope you understand.

Finally, if you have any questions or worries at any time, please email me at sarah.coxon@kirkhamwesham.lancs.sch.uk.

Thank you for your continued support in these difficult times.
Kind regards

Mrs Sarah Coxon (class teacher)

