

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year 1! We are looking forward to getting to know your child and supporting them as they grow in confidence, curiosity and independence. This year is full of exciting learning opportunities, and we are eager to see each child's unique light shine.

We know this message includes quite a bit of information, but we hope you find it useful. We've included everything we believe will help you understand what to expect this year and how we can work together to make it a successful and enriching experience for your child.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss anything further, please don't hesitate to get in touch via the school office or speak to us at the end of the school day.

Thank you for your continued support—we're excited to work together to make this a successful and joyful year.

Warm regards,

Mrs Hunter and Miss Heightley  
Hazel and Holly Class Teachers

### **Who will be teaching my child:**

Throughout the week, your child may also be taught by other members of our dedicated staff team for specific subjects. On a Tuesday morning, Mr. Rose will teach Year 1 PE and Mrs. Rose will teach Music. On Wednesdays Mrs. Holman will teach in Hazel Class and on Fridays she will teach in Holly Class. Together, we aim to provide a rich and varied learning experience, guided by our school values of being caring, courageous, Christ-like, and part of a celebratory community.

### **What your child will need and homework**

Weekly maths homework will be sent home on a Friday. Homework should ideally be completed by the following Wednesday to give teachers time to mark but can be handed in from the Monday. In addition to this, your child should have daily reading practice at home.

Children have access to Reading Scheme books and Library books. Please leave the reading scheme book and reading record in your child's bag at all times. This is so we can read with them and monitor their progress. In Year 1 we expect the children to hand in their books once they have read them at home hence reading books can be handed in any day of the week and new books will be handed out by the end of the week. We will NOT change your child's book unless an adult from home has recorded in the reading record that it has been read during the week. We regularly monitor your child's stage of phonics and will therefore match their reading books according to this. This may mean revisiting certain stages to consolidate phonic knowledge. It is important that you understand that with this scheme, there is no 'going backwards' and this plays a vital role in enabling your child to be secure and fluent in their phonics for reading and writing. On the inside cover of each reading book there is a helpful before and during reading page. We ask that parents make use of this. Reading regularly at home helps your child to make good progress and we advise trying to read for 10 minutes per day.

Children will learn new sounds each week in their phonics lessons. We will add a list of spellings which are linked to the sounds they have practised during the week in class so they can be reinforced at home. Please note there will be no formal spelling test taking place, these lists are purely for embedding learning at home.

## What your child will be learning about in Year 1: An overview

Year 1	Autumn		Spring		Summer	
English	Oi Frog Izzy Gizmo Handa's Surprise Naughty Bus Poetry		Beegu The Comet Leo and the Octopus Yeti and the Bird Poetry		Iggy Peck Dadaji's Paintbrush Pig the Pug Poetry	
Maths	Number and place value Addition and subtraction Properties of shape		Addition and subtraction number and place value Measurement		Multiplication and division Statistics Measurement properties of shape fractions	
RE	Christianity – Visiting a Church  What can we learn about Christianity from visiting a Church?	Christianity - Christmas Why are gifts given at Christmas?	Christianity – Jesus Why is Jesus special to Christians?	Christianity – Easter What is the Easter story?	Buddhism  What can we find out about Buddha?	
Science Seasonal change (every term) Children will observe changes across the seasons by exploring the signs of spring, summer, autumn and winter through nature and wildlife.	Use of everyday materials  Children will learn about everyday materials and their properties including wood, plastic, metal, water and rock. Children also will carry out a simple investigation to help them decide which material would be most suitable to be waterproof.		Plants  Children will learn to name the basic parts of a plant, including seeds. They will have the opportunity to plant their own seeds and to make observations of how they grow over time. Children will also learn to identify, name and describe a variety of garden and wild plants as well as evergreen and deciduous trees.		Animals including humans  Children will learn about five of the groups that scientists use to classify animals: mammals, fish, birds, reptiles and amphibians. They will also learn about the different diets animals eat. Children will learn about the parts of the human body and have the opportunity to explore the five senses.	
Art & Design	Local sculptures – draw and sculpt		Portraits – paint and draw		Environmental print and collage	
Computing	Computing Systems and Networks Creating Media - Digital Painting	Physical Computing - Programming A – Moving a robot	Pages - creating a document	Garage Band - Creating Music	Coding - Programming B - Programming animations	Explore iMovie with a view to making end of year videos.
Design & Technology		Mechanisms: Moving story book/moving Christmas cards		Cooking and nutrition: Smoothies (Lessons 1, 2, 5 and 6; omit lessons 3 and 4)		Option 2: Structures: Constructing windmills/playground structures (link with Iggy Peck book) (Lesson 1 - 3; omit lesson 4)
Geography	What is it like here?			What is the weather like in the UK?		What is it like to live in Shanghai?
History		How am I making history?	How have toys changed?		How have explorers changed the world?	
Music	Menu Song This unit centres around a lively cumulative song featuring off-beat rhythms and food-themed lyrics, helping children practise echo singing, steady beat, and pitch.	Colonel Hathi's March Children move and count in time to march music, compose their own marching music and listen to contrasting low and high instruments  Magical Musical Aquarium Children explore classical music by timbre, pitch, and structure, using	Football Children explore rhythm and pitch through echo singing, word pattern composition, mi-re-do improvisation, and playing a percussion ostinato, using the lively chant <i>Football</i> to distinguish between pitched and rhythmic patterns.	'Dawn' from sea interludes Children explore music inspired by the sea through active listening, singing games, percussion activities, and creating a musical interpretation of Britten's <i>Dawn</i> from <i>Sea Interludes</i> .  Musical conversations Children create musical	Dancing and drawing to Nautilus Children explore pitch, beat, and duration through Anna Meredith's <i>Nautilus</i> , responding with movement, drawing, and comparing interpretations to discover the many ways music can be experienced.  Cat and Mouse Children use a singing game to explore rhythm through	Come dance with me This lively warm-up song encourages movement and creativity, leading into lyric and action composition, call-and-response instrumental work, and performing simple rhythm patterns on tuned percussion.
		graphic symbols to represent sound and support their musical understanding		conversations through question-and-answer compositions, learning to take turns, lead and follow, read simple scores, and invent their own graphic notation.	improvisation, reading and writing simple notation, and combining musical elements like tempo, timbre, and dynamics to create expressive storytelling.	
Physical Education	Making shapes	Gymnastics assessing level 1	The cat dance	Rolla Ball, ten point hoops, piggy in the middle	Honey pot Colour match	Bean bag throw (Adapted to involve striking a ball)
PSHE	<b>Health and Wellbeing</b> – The process of growing from young to old, people who look after us, how to maintain a healthy lifestyle  <b>Relationships</b> – communicating our feelings, similarities and differences between people, recognising and challenging stereotypes		<b>Relationships</b> – communicating our feelings, similarities and differences between people, recognising and challenging stereotypes		<b>Living in the Wider World</b> – our local environment, the value of democracy	

## **PE and Forest Schools**

P.E. : Tuesday - children should come to school dressed in their P.E. kit, ready for active learning.

Each class will take part in a Forest School session once per term. On these days, children will be learning outdoors and engaging in hands-on activities, which may involve mud and messy play. Please ensure your child comes dressed in appropriate clothing, including waterproofs and sturdy footwear. We recommend older clothes that you don't mind getting dirty.

## **Key Dates**

Year 1 and whole-school dates and updates can be found on Weduc and reminders are shared in the weekly whole school update. Please do keep an eye on these platforms, as new dates will be added and while we aim to keep plans consistent, changes may occasionally be necessary due to unforeseen circumstances.

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September** – Flu Immunisation

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September** – Individual photographs

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October** – Forest Schools

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September** – European Day of Languages

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October** – half term

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** – return to school

**Week beginning 3rd November** – Parents Evening

**Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – 2.30pm and Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December - 9.15am** - Nativity performance

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas dinner & jumper day

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December** – Forest Schools

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December** – last day of term

## **Phonics Screening**

In Year 1 all children will take part in a phonics screening assessment during the summer term. Details on this will be given later in the year.

Kind Regards,

Mrs. Hunter and Miss. Heightley