



# Welcome Newsletter



September 2022

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 1! We hope that you and your children are looking forward to being part of Squirrels and Owls class. We wanted to contact you early in the term to confirm some details about your child's transition into Year 1, classroom organisation and home-school liaison.

## How Year 1 Differs from Reception

### ~ Curriculum

The main difference between Reception and Year 1 is the change of curriculum. For two or more years, your child has been following the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and has been assessed against 7 Areas of Learning.

In Year 1 your child will progress from these 7 Areas of Learning to the National Curriculum subjects for Key Stage 1 as follows:-

Early Years Foundation Stage	National Curriculum
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Personal, Social & Health Education and Citizenship
Communication and Language	English
Literacy	
Mathematics	Maths
Understanding the World	Science, History, Geography, Computing, RE
Physical Development	PE
Expressive Arts and Design	Music, Art and Design Technology

In Reception, the children's learning is play-based and free flowing, both in and outdoors, where they link different elements of their knowledge. They are guided by staff but are encouraged to be independent in their choice of activity and resources; they choose what they play with, when and with whom. There is also a greater ratio of adults.

By contrast the Year 1 learning experience becomes more formal and structured, with a distinct separation between play and learning. The National Curriculum sets out clear learning goals across every subject. Teaching and learning is more subject based so children have less choice about what they do and when. Parts of the day are no longer continuous provision and instead outdoor activities are planned as part of the learning. There is more

furniture and fewer toys as children will be preparing to spend more time sitting at tables, with a greater focus on more structured tasks. They will be expected to concentrate for longer periods of time as the directed teaching times increase throughout the year. There is also a smaller ratio of adults.

At Sandringham, we appreciate that this is a significant change to their familiar school routine. We are aware that this can be a challenging transition for some children. Therefore, we aim to support all the children with this by initially incorporating some play-based activities to support their learning within the more formal Key Stage 1 style.

### **~Assessment**

Up until now you will have been accessing your child's learning journey online through Tapestry. This terminates now as an assessment tool; instead the children are assessed each half term against National Curriculum goals using an assessment system called 'Assertive Mentoring'. Judgements against the criteria are made through teacher assessment as well as evidence collected in your child's books. There is also a National Phonics Screening Test, which the children are required to take at the end of Year 1. A separate letter outlining the details of this will be sent home at a later date. Information evenings regarding Assessment will be held later in the year.

### **~Tapestry**

We will continue to use Tapestry as a means of communication and you should have already received your log-in information. We will upload home learning, new spellings and any other class-based information that may be relevant. All other information will continue to be sent via email from the school office. Tapestry will now be used for you to upload your child's home learning. We are trying to be an environmentally friendly school and reduce the use of paper.

### **~Coming into School in the Morning**

Your child will come into school via the green gates by Nursery. Once you have brought them up to the gates you will be met by a member of the Year One team. This may not always be your child's class teacher. Then they will walk to their classroom and independently put their coat, book bag and water bottle away. They are also responsible for handing any letters or correspondence from home to their class teacher. Please remind them to take these out of their book bags. We will also reinforce this in class.

If there are any changes to your pick up arrangements at the end of the day or if a different adult is collecting your child (including grandparents), please let the staff know at the gate or alternatively leave a message in the office. This is important as it may not always be the class teacher sending home. Also, if there is any urgent medical information that staff would need to know for the start of the day, then please also speak to the staff on the gate.

### **~Communication**

You will have the opportunity to meet with the class teachers at Parents Evening early in the Autumn Term. This will be a chance to discuss how your child is coping with the transition from Reception. If you have any concerns about your child on a day to day basis, we encourage you to arrange to come and see a member of the team after school, once all the children have been dismissed safely. If this is not possible or if it is outside of school hours, in the first instance please correspond via the school office email rather than the staff's school email addresses. Your correspondence will be passed to the relevant member of staff the following day.

### **~Phonics and Spellings**

There is a strong emphasis on reading and spelling in Year One. Children have a daily phonics session to support this. Each session has a reading and a spelling element. The children also have spelling lists accessed via Tapestry which will be uploaded every 2 weeks. The spellings will be made up of individual letters initially followed by the Year One harder to read and spell words that they will need to be able to read and spell by the end of the academic year. At the end of each half term, your child will be sent home with a paper copy of the words that they know and/or the words that they need to practise. Your support with this would be appreciated; we would ask that you practice these with your child. The spellings will be sent home during the first few weeks of term.

### **~Handwriting**

At first, the children are taught to write the individual letters and then are taught how to join these using a 'lead out'. The children will have been used to seeing all adults modeling this in Reception. When they are ready, this style of letter formation supports a much smoother transition to joined handwriting in Year Two.

### **~Home Learning**

Your child will receive a number of activities as part of their home learning:-

- Reading books
- Spellings sent home every 2 weeks via Tapestry
- An 'Invitation to Learning' will be uploaded onto Tapestry at the beginning of every half term with half a term to complete the activities
- Mathletics - The children will have access to Mathletics and their log ins will be sent home shortly

We appreciate that home life differs for each family and there is no pressure to complete all of the activities on the 'Invitation to Learning'. However, as a minimum we would expect your child to be reading and practising their spellings regularly. Your support with this is invaluable and has such a positive impact on your child's progress.

## What will be the same?

### **~School Dinners**

Your child will still have the same choice of healthy menu that they enjoyed last year. If your child has a packed lunch, please remember that we are a **nut free school** as we have several children and staff members with severe allergies. Please also remember to cut grapes in half lengthways. The menu will be posted on the school website and school meals now need to be ordered online in advance. Please can you choose these meals with your child and remind them what they have chosen. These choices are unable to be changed on the day.

### **~Fruit and Milk**

The children will be able to enjoy a piece of fruit each day at morning play time. If you would like your child to have milk, it is available to order through 'Cool Milk' online. Now that your child has turned 5 years old, please note that milk is no longer free of charge. However, it is available to order via the school website or directly via this link [www.coolmilk.com](http://www.coolmilk.com)

### **~Uniform**

Please ensure your child comes to school in the correct uniform every day. This includes shoes and accessories. Long hair should be tied back for school. Hair accessories must also be in school colours and we would ask that the recent craze for large fashion bows are not worn to school. If your child has pierced ears, then you need to have signed a disclaimer form to allow the earrings to be worn in school each day. Earrings should be small, plain studs only and your child will need to be able to remove them for PE or they should be covered up with tape before coming to school. The disclaimer form is available from the school office. These are County Health and Safety requirements.

### **~PE Kit**

Our PE days are Mondays and Wednesdays. Please ensure that your child has the correct PE kit in school at the beginning of each half term. It will be sent home to be washed each school holiday. We will be doing outdoor PE throughout the year so please ensure your child has suitable plimsolls or trainers that fit correctly. We go out in all weathers, so school tracksuit bottoms are useful as well as socks if your child wears tights. If your child has long hair, please ensure that it is tied back. Please ensure that earrings are removed on PE days or taped as per the instructions above.

### **~Forest Friday**

Forest Friday arrangements are the same as last year when your children were in Reception. Please send named waterproofs and wellies into school which can remain here until the end of term. On Fridays children need to come to school in normal uniform (top half) and green joggers (bottom half) and trainers.

### **~Water Bottles**

Please can you provide your child with a **clearly named** sports water bottle **filled only with water** to keep their brains hydrated and active for learning. Children can refill their water bottle in school. We encourage the children to take responsibility to drink regularly and to refill their water bottle when required. Please do not send in any other liquid for your child to drink (no squash please!) as it will be tipped away and refilled with fresh water.

### **~School Caps**

**Named** school caps should be in school every day and kept in your child's tray or book bag. They will need to wear them for any visits out of school and when the weather is hot.

### **~Celebrating Achievement**

We welcome and celebrate children's achievements. Certificates, trophies and medals from out of school activities will be celebrated and shared with the whole school during our weekly Friday Celebration Assembly. If your child has something to show then please ensure that these are brought in on Friday for the assembly. All toys (including comfort toys) should be left at home. Please can you check to ensure that your child's book bags are toy free before they come into school each day!

### **~Birthdays**

We celebrate birthdays in school by singing to the children in class and at the Celebration Assembly on a Friday. Regrettably, due to a number of allergies within the school, children are not allowed to bring in sweets or cakes to share with their friends - please save these for parties!

### **~Bike Helmets**

If you have stated that you would like your child to wear a helmet when riding the wheelie toys at school, please ensure you send this in - we will not allow children to ride a bike without a helmet if their parent/guardian has stated that they should. This must be kept in school for the duration of the half term.

### **~Reading Books**

Reading books should come into school and go home each evening, your child's decodable book will be changed each Friday. Your help with reading at home is invaluable; please record in their reading diary the dates that they have read to you and any comments that you have (comments optional but please initial). Your child will read once a week to either a Teacher or a Learning Support Assistant and it would hugely support your child if you could hear them read their decodable book every day.

## **Important Dates**

Further dates and school events will continue to be communicated with parents in a fortnightly newsletter from Mrs Money, emailed via Schoolcomms, as well as being available on the school website. The PTA has their own website with event details on as well a Facebook page called 'Friends of Sandringham School'.

[www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsandsandringham](http://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsandsandringham)

We hope that you and your children enjoy the year with us, we are certainly looking forward to our year with them!

**Mrs Lytle, Mrs McClelland & the Year One Team**