

Welcome Newsletter - Year One

September 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year One. We hope that you and your children have enjoyed the first few days in their new classes. We like to contact you early in the term to confirm some details about your child's transition, classroom organisation and home-school liaison.

How Year One differs from Reception

The main difference between Reception and Year One 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 17 Areas of Learning. In Year One your child will progress from these 17 Areas of Learning to the National Curriculum subjects for Key Stage 1.

Coming into school in the morning

Due to the continuing COVID-19 guidelines on visitors/adults in school your child will now come into school via the green gates at the side of the school. Once you have brought them up to the gates you will be met by some of the Year One staff. The children will walk to their classroom and independently put their coat, book bag and water bottle away. They will be expected to wash their hands when they arrive and confirm their lunch choice with a member of staff. If you have any messages for us, then please either email the office or let a member of the Year One Team know on the gate.

Book Bags

Due to Covid-19 measures we need to limit the number of items in the cloakroom and so we will require the children to keep their book bags in their trays. To enable these to fit we ask that any key-rings are removed and their book bag is named and only contains their reading folder.

Uniform

Please ensure your child comes to school in the correct uniform every day. This includes shoes and accessories. Long hair for both boys and girls 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 disclosure form to allow the earrings to be worn in school each day. This form is available from the school office.

PE Kit

Our PE days are Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. 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 before your child comes to school. If the earrings cannot be removed then they need to be taped up and you will need to sign a disclosure form as above. These are County Health and Safety requirements.

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 (Covid-19 dependent) and when the weather is hot.

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 need to be ordered on-line in advance.

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. Links to 'Cool Milk' are on the school website or directly via www.coolmilk.com

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. We encourage the children to take responsibility to drink regularly and to refill their water bottle when required.

Money

We are now a cashless school. Any money that needs to come into school should be paid online through the school cash office. Links to the school cash office can be found on the school website. Please see Mrs Cable in the school office if you have any queries regarding this.

Celebrating Achievements

We welcome and celebrate children's achievements in school. Unfortunately, the children cannot bring in their certificates, trophies or medals at the moment, but once they have let us know, we can celebrate this news during our circle time sessions.

Birthdays

We celebrate birthdays in school by singing to the children and they get the opportunity to sit on the birthday chair. 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!

Reading Books

Reading books should come into school and go home each evening. Your help with reading at home is invaluable. Please record in their reading diary; the title, the date and the page that they have read to and please practise the key words if your child is still learning these. We also welcome any positive comments. Your child will read at least once a week to either a Teacher or a Learning Support Assistant. Due to the fact that you are unable to come in and change your child's books, we will be sending home extra books when we hear your child read. Please make sure that they are all kept in their book bag. In order to move to the next stage, your child will need to be assessed by a member of the teaching staff against the reading assessment criteria and the class teacher will make this decision.

Assessment

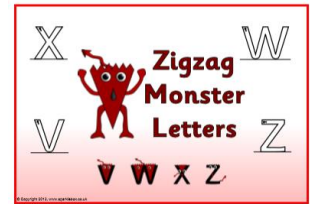
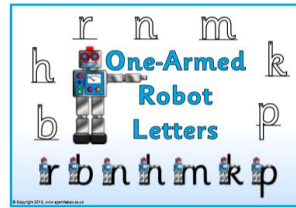
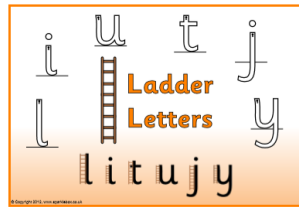
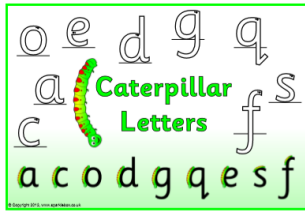
In Reception you would have accessed your child's learning journey online through Tapestry. This system is not available in KS1; instead the children are assessed each half term against National Curriculum goals using an assessment system called 'Assertive Mentoring'. Each child has their own folder, which will be shared during Parents Evening. 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 One. If they did not achieve the required score in Year One then they will re-sit the screening in Year Two. A separate letter outlining the details of this will be sent home at a later date.

Phonics and Spellings

There is a strong emphasis on reading and spelling. Children have a daily phonics session to support this. Each session has a reading and a spelling element. When we feel the children are ready then we will begin sending spellings home. The children will also have spelling lists sent home every 2 weeks. Some of the spellings will be made up of the Year One common exception words that they need to be able to read and spell by the end of the academic year. Your support with this would be appreciated; we would ask that you practice these with your child over the year. The spelling books will be sent home during the first few weeks.

Handwriting

In Year One the children are taught to write the letters of the alphabet with a lead-out. This is in preparation for the cursive style of handwriting that they will learn in Year Two. They will also learn about the letter families.



Home Learning

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

- Reading books
- Spellings sent home every 2 weeks (info to follow in the first few weeks)
- An 'Invitation to Learning' book sent home every half term, with half a term to complete the activities.
- Mathletics - The children will have access to Mathletics and their log in will be the same as last year. If you have mislaid the log-in, please let us know.
- You will receive an information leaflet about websites and games that will help with maths.

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 www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsofsandringham with event details on.

Please do not hesitate to email us with any queries, particularly during the first few weeks as the children settle. We hope that you and your children enjoy the year with us!

Mrs Thomas, Mrs Warner and Mrs Robinson