

Welcome! We are looking forward to working in partnership with you to achieve the best for your child. The purpose of this letter is to give you important information about what to expect in the new school year. The children should arrive at school no later than 8:50 am every morning. Please aim to arrive at 8:45 am when there will be a member of lower school staff welcoming the children at the gate and guiding them to the playground where additional staff will be waiting for them. Parents will not be able to accompany their child to the playground or premises. If you need to talk to a member of staff please call or email the school office. The children will be dismissed at 3:10 pm on the tarmac area of the field, where parents can wait at the end of the day. **Please make sure the school office holds current contact information for you in case we need to contact you during the school day;** as well as up-to-date dietary and medical information for your child. It is also important that the details we have regarding your child's home time arrangements (e.g. names of people collecting) are up-to-date.

Your child should attend school in full school uniform, including black shoes (no trainers) and **bring in a book bag, a waterproof coat and a water bottle every day. All items of clothing and personal items (including lunchboxes) should be named.** Keyrings and other 'charms' on book bags and coat zips are useful for quick identification purposes but should be limited to one small one. A spare change of clothes (including underwear and socks) should be provided for each child, this is to be kept in a school P.E bag and must be kept in school in case of an 'accident'.

Our weekly P.E. lesson will be on a Friday. P.E kits are to be kept at home. **Please ensure that your child attends school in their P.E kit and trainers every Friday.** During P.E, the wearing of jewellery is not permitted (including ear studs) and long hair needs to be tied back. P.E kits should consist of the following in school colours; shorts or jogging bottoms, t-shirt, trainers and plimsolls. If your child does not have school jogging bottoms please consider purchasing a pair, in the winter they will be essential for outdoor P.E. Your child should have a school shoe bag containing plimsolls. These will be worn during indoor P.E lessons and must be kept in school at all times.

A Universal Free School meal is provided for each Year One child. **Please help your child to make their choice daily from the lunch menu before they come to school.** The school will also provide a piece of fruit at break time. If you choose to send in a packed lunch from home please note that only healthy food items are allowed and that their mid-morning snack should be fruit only. Your child will need to bring in their own water bottle each day. Water bottles will be replenished regularly during the day by staff members. A packet of tissues should be kept in your child's book bag. You may send your child in with their own small bottle of hand sanitiser (your child needs to be able to apply this themselves). In Year 1 milk is no longer provided free of charge, if you wish your child to continue to receive milk please follow the link to the Cool Milk website; <https://customers.coolmilk.com/v2/register/>.

This half-term our learning topic is 'Is the Wii more fun than grandma and grandad's old toys?' and 'What do aliens think of life on planet Earth?' will be our learning topic for the following half-term. We do basic number skills at school, but they also need to be practised daily at home. We hope that you will find time to do this with your child. You can help by:

- ✓ Making sure she/he can read, write and recognise as many numbers up to 20 as they can manage: if that's too easy keep going up to 100 or further!
- ✓ Encouraging her/him to count in twos, fives and tens.
- ✓ Giving her/him 'quick fire' questions e.g. 'What goes with six to make ten?', 'Which number is one less than 15?'
- ✓ Using maths with your child during daily activities e.g. counting the steps whilst walking/going up stairs, adding how many items are in your shopping trolley and counting out the cutlery when laying the table.

Your child's reading level will be assessed this week and on Friday they will be given a home reading book from their assigned book band. They should read every day and this should be recorded in their reading record by the adult who heard them read. Please note that in Year One your child will be encouraged to regularly re-read books that they have already read; this is in accordance with the latest government guidance and aims to ensure that the children become fully confident and secure with the phonics associated with each book. Please also note that as the books get longer, your child is not expected to read the whole book in one sitting. We recommend 10 minutes of quality reading time with an adult every day. This should include time for questions about the text they have read. Home reading books

and reading records should travel between home and school every day, regardless of whether the book needs changing or not as we will need these when we hear your child read at school. Therefore, please ensure that both your child's home reading book and reading record is in their book bag each day.

In addition to becoming fully confident and secure with the phonics associated with the books your child is reading, we are focussing on how well your child understands what they have read. **Therefore, we will only move a child up a level once they have a secure understanding of what they are reading.** You can help your child by:

- ✓ Reading to her/him if a book is too challenging so that she/he can understand what the story is about.
- ✓ Talking about the story and asking questions such as 'Why do you think that happened?' or 'What do you think will happen next?'
- ✓ Making sure your child knows the sounds made when groups of letters blend together to make one sound (either a digraph or a trigraph) e.g. ch, sh, th, oo, sp, ing, ie. Point these out as you come across them when reading and together see if you can think of other words with these blends of letters.
- ✓ Pointing out full stops, capital letters and speech marks so that your child begins to have an understanding of the uses of punctuation.

Weekly spellings are given out each Friday and the children are tested the following Thursday. The children's marked spelling test will be stapled into their spelling record book to allow you the opportunity to see first-hand how they have performed. Weekly home learning will also be sent home on a Friday, this is to be handed in at the **latest** by the following Wednesday to allow time for their work to be marked.

We will continue to clean surfaces regularly, aim for good ventilation indoors and will endorse hygiene practices, such as the use of tissues (catch it, bin it, kill it), regular hand washing and not touching our eyes, noses or mouths. We would be very grateful for any donations of boxes of tissues to use in class.

We realise that the children have experienced a lot of instability in their education in the recent years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Please rest assured that we will do our utmost to ensure every child gets the provision and support they need to flourish whilst at school. If we feel that there are certain things that you could do at home to further help, then we will speak to you personally. You can best support your child's learning now by making sure they attend school regularly and on time, read daily at home and complete all the home learning set. On the back of the attached "learning map" you will find additional suggestions on how to help your child make good progress. To further complement learning both at school and at home we subscribe to a number of learning apps including: BugClub, Spelling Shed, RM easimaths, LGfL BusyThings and Purple Mash. The usernames and passwords for these can be found on the inside cover of your child's reading record. Please encourage your child to log on to complete activities regularly!

The children will have a very busy day learning here at school and they will be tired. For best possible learning outcomes it is important they get enough rest. The NHS recommend eleven hours of sleep for 5 - 6 year-olds. Please consider the amount of afterschool activities your child attends and avoid screen time just before bedtime as this can be detrimental to sleep. Please ensure your child has a nutritious breakfast every morning. Shared meal times provide a good opportunity to chat and catch up, allowing for your child to talk about their day, including any worries they may have - this is shown by research to promote good mental health and have a positive impact on learning outcomes, too.

Your support in helping your child to become more independent at this stage of their schooling is vitally important. They should be encouraged to start taking responsibility for their daily reading, learning their spellings and completing their home learning on time, as well as looking after their own belongings (this is made far easier when all their belongings are named).

Our Year One team here at school consists of myself, Mrs Latter and Mrs Lancaster, the Year One teaching assistants, as well as Mrs Hallen, our interventions teacher, who will be taking groups. Mrs Donohue, our SENDCo, will be teaching the class every other Monday. Should you have any questions, queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are all very much looking forward to working together with you and your lovely children!

**Many thanks for your support.**

**Camilla Whittington**  
Class Teacher

**Jill Latter**  
Teaching Assistant

**Claire Lancaster**  
Teaching Assistant