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Headteacher: Ed Read*

YEAR ONE CLASS NEWSLETTER

September 6th 2019

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to Year One! We are very excited to be welcoming such a fantastic class of children through the door this term! The teaching team is Miss Pearson (4 days a week) and Mrs Delacovias – better known as Mrs D (Wednesdays), both ably assisted by Mrs Rooma, Mrs Kerby and Mrs Robinson at different points throughout the week. Brenda Stones, a volunteer helper, listens to readers each Friday morning. We are all looking forward to working with your child this year.

The School Day

Children can arrive in the classroom from 8.35am via the main school entrance and must be there by 8.50am when the children come to the carpet for registration. Please help your child to settle quickly by saying goodbye and making sure you have left by this point. Usually any signs of distress on departure of a parent or carer pass quickly, and we will keep in touch with you later in the day if they are still struggling to settle. At the end of the day (3.10pm) the children will leave by the exterior classroom door when we can see who is collecting them. Please stand where we can see you from our doorway and don't be scared to wave! If your child is being collected by someone else or is going to a club, please write a note on the right hand side of the whiteboard by the door, and make sure your child knows what they are doing too.

Book Bags

Information will normally be sent to you via e-mail, but there any letters with slips to return or flyers will go home via the book bag, so please do have a look every day to see if there is anything new in there! Please also help your child to keep a current reading book and their reading diary in it; if they have finished one, you can choose a new one with them at the start of the day – the sticker boxes are all clearly labelled in the reading corner. We will change your child's book when we listen to them read in school if needed. Please keep to your child's reading level, as we will move them up at school when they are ready. Book bags are kept in the large coloured boxes in the classroom according to which colour group your child is in.

Homework

There is minimal "homework" in Year 1. However, we would love the children to see learning as a process that never stops and so there are some things that you can do at home to support their learning in school. Each week we ask you to read with your child and to learn some spellings, which will come home in a little blue book where they can be practised.

Your child's yellow reading diary is for recording their reading both at home and at school. The ideal is for your child to read a little every day; we will try to listen to them in school every week. When you listen to your child read, please write the date and if you can, a little comment ("great reading!" or "we had a lovely discussion about jam/ bunny rabbits/ the title", etc.). We do appreciate that time is often short, so if you've heard your child read and can even just manage a smiley face for a comment, this still lets us know they've been heard at home. This term, when they have read on 20 days at home, they will get a small reading prize at school.

I will occasionally set optional project homework in line with our topic, which will come home in book bags and it is up to you how you complete it. It is meant to be fun to do, to add to your child's learning and enjoyment of our topic, and not a chore!

Copies of homework/spellings will also be pinned to the class noticeboard in the corridor and e-mailed out to you each term.

Outdoor work including PE:

I love spending time outdoors! The day we do outdoor PE on will vary with the weather and we will do other learning outside too, so please ensure your child's PE kit is always in school (including plimsolls or trainers) and that they have a warm coat or weather appropriate clothing. During the winter and muddy weather, they will need a pair of outdoor shoes separate to their indoor PE shoes, e.g. trainers indoors & wellies outdoors, or plimsolls indoors and trainers outdoors. The important thing is that the mud stays on the outdoor shoes! There is a rack by the outer door for outdoor shoes/ wellies.

We do PE in a white t-shirt, optional jumper, navy joggers/ shorts/ skirt as appropriate, and either shoes (outdoor) or bare feet (indoor). Your child should not be wearing any jewellery in school and any earrings should be plain studs. Watches will have to be taken off for PE. PE kit should be kept in school during the week; it is unlikely to get muddy enough to need washing every week so hopefully it will be no problem to keep it in school for the term. If you do take it home at the weekend, please ensure it is returned on Monday.

Please also make sure that all PE kit, uniform and waterbottles, book bags, etc. are named – initials on the label in marker pen are fine. I will do a check early in term and un-named kit may have your child's name added to it by me! I have marker pens in the classroom that you can always borrow if you realise you have turned up at school with anything unnamed.

Topics this year

We are covering a great variety of topics this year, as follows:

Autumn Term 1 (before half term)	Reach for the stars! Where is the edge of the universe?
Autumn Term 2 (after half term)	Animals Are all animals furry?
Spring Term 1	Whatever the weather What would you wear in a thunderstorm?
Spring Term 2	A knight's tale Are boys the best heroes?
Summer Term 1	Dinosaurs How do we know they existed?
Summer Term 2	Outdoor Adventures How do you survive in the wild?

To help us with our learning, we will be going on a mixture of local and non-local class trips this year. It is always helpful to have extra adults with us, so if you are able to come on any of the trips below, please do drop me a line! There will be a letter with details and a permission slip nearer the time for each.

Non-local trips:

Thursday 21st November – Crocodiles of the World
Thursday 23rd April – Oxfordshire museum
Tuesday 23rd June – Hill End

We will also go on walks around the village to learn about the seasons on

24th October (afternoon)
17th January (morning)
24th March (afternoon)
7th July (afternoon)

Parent helpers are welcome!

We value parent help at any time of the year, not just on school trips. If you would like to volunteer some time in class, either as a one off or regularly, you will be welcomed with open arms! I would also love to know if there are any skills or experiences that you could share with our class that might help with our learning, e.g. if you write stories, can play a musical instrument, come from a different culture, sailed the Atlantic, are a dinosaur specialist, zoo-keeper, knight, pirate, etc.! This term I would love to know if there is anyone who uses codes on computers as part of their job and would be willing to talk to the class, and whether anyone has any relatives who remembers the first moon landings and might be able to come and talk to the class – we don't need a detailed account, just a flavour of how life was different in the 1960s and their own recollections of the event!

Healthy Living

Year 1 are entitled to a piece of free fruit/veg every day as part of the '5 a day' scheme. We have this at morning playtime so there is no need for another snack. Children should bring a named water bottle to school (separate to their packed lunch) and put it in the marked trays or boxes in the classroom. The bottle should be filled with water only each morning so that there is enough to last the day. No squash or fizzy drinks please.

Touching base

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns, please do talk to me! I love to get to know parents as well as children and welcome the chance to connect with you – please do introduce yourself and say hello. Year 1 is slightly different to Reception in that there are no additional staff with me in the mornings until 8.45, so I cannot chat to parents before school. If you want to chat about something that will take more than a minute, the best thing is to arrange to see me after school or let me know in the morning so I can phone you at a breaktime.

Wishing you a happy and exciting autumn time,

Miss Anna Pearson, Mrs Jill Delacovias, Mrs Tracey Rooma, Mrs Natalie Kerby and Mrs Vittoria Robinson