



Friday 4th September 2020

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 1, a new and exciting year ahead! The class will now begin following the National Curriculum for Key Stage One, which spans across both Year 1 and Year 2. This is different to the EYFS curriculum in that it is split into different subjects including English, Maths and Science. An overview / long term plan can be found on the Year 1 website. Please note that this is not set in stone and may change as the year continues, in order to adapt to the children's needs and interests. The learning will still be topic based and subjects will be taught through our creative approach that is used across all the classes in our school.

Uniform and PE

Please can you make sure that all uniform is clearly labelled with your child's name. so that items can be found and returned easily if lost. PE kits should also be labelled and need to stay in school all week, as extra PE sessions may happen. Year 1's regular PE slot is on a **Monday morning**. Children will need to bring a coat in to school each day throughout the Autumn and Spring term to wear during play times.

Reading Books

The children will continue with the home reading scheme from Reception Class. They will bring a book home each evening, along with their reading record. The focus is on children reading for pleasure and we will only move children on to the next reading stage when they have read the majority of books in their current band, and have developed confidence and fluency within that level. Please encourage your child to read as regularly as possible; this is not about quantity but quality. I would expect them to read for 5-10 minutes a day, with opportunity to apply their phonics knowledge in reading the text, as well as time to discuss what they have read too. They need to have a good comprehension of what they are reading not just focusing on reading the words. Please can you make a note of what they have read in their reading records so we are able to continue on from this in the classroom.

Homework

The children will have regular homework that will help them to consolidate what they have been learning in class. They will have spellings every Thursday that will be sent home in their spelling books and we will have a 'spelling quiz' the following Thursday to check their progress in this. These will be words from the high frequency word lists, linked to the phonics programme, and the common exception words for Year 1. A copy of these words can be found on the Year 1 Home Learning page on the school website, accessed from the main Year 1 page. Each child will progress at their own pace and the set of words sent home will be personalised for them. By the end of Year 1, the expectation is for children to be able to read and write all of these words. We will continue with our 'Unhomework' approach too where this gives the children an element of choice in what they do. I will send further information at the time about this.

Forest School

Mrs Andrews will continue to take the children to Forest School on **Thursday afternoon in second half of the Autumn, Spring and Summer terms** and, the same as last year, this will alternate with Reception Class on a half termly basis. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to learn in a different environment to the classroom which is invaluable for their learning and development.

Fruit and Water

There is a water station in the classroom, just like the children have been used to in Reception Class, where the children can keep their water bottles. They can have a drink at any point during the school day. Please can all water bottles be clearly marked with your child's name. They can have milk at play time if you would like them to, however, now that they have turned 5 this is no longer free and you need to pay for this. We use Cool Milk as our milk provider and milk can be order from them. Please enquire at the school office for more information. Children are provided with fruit that is delivered daily to school. They can also bring fruit in from home if they would like to, which they can store in their drawers in the classroom.

Show and Tell

This was such a popular time of the week in Reception Class and we will continue to have it every Friday. Children can bring something special to them or to celebrate with their class on this day only. They are not to bring any toys/valuables in to school to prevent any unnecessary upset if they lose them. Thank you.

Class Diary

Each week the children will take it in turns to bring home the class diary. This will be accompanied by the class mascot, who the children will be choosing a name for soon. This gives children the opportunity to write in the diary about what they have been up to over the weekend and during the week that they have it. They will then be able to share this with the rest of the class, every Thursday. Please encourage your child to write in this with independence particularly in sounding out the words they need, however supporting them in thinking of the ideas to write. You can include photographs too if you would like to.

If you need to speak with me then ideally the best time is at the end of the school day. However, if needed, you can speak with the office staff in the morning and leave a message, or call school. You can also email me directly on **rhawtree@holyredeemer.worcs.sch.uk**.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to a wonderful year ahead with your children- they are a great class.

Kind regards,

Mr Hawtree

Year 1 Teacher