

Dear Parents

The Year 1 team would like to clarify the expectations for the start of Year 1:

All children should bring their named P.E kits on Monday to stay in school until Friday. We try to take the children outside for at least one Games session but we try to work around the weather. Outdoor kit should include T-shirt, joggers, a long sleeve top and trainers. The indoor session is on Friday and requires plain dark shorts and a plain white T-shirt.

You may have noticed we are no longer providing the children with Learning Logs. We spend much of our day reading different texts and books to ensure they have as much opportunity to practise reading to an adult. We keep records of this reading in school but you will not see this reflected in the red book. We will make sure that there are always 2 books in book bags to make sure your child always has something to read to you at home. The ultimate goal for all readers is to understand what has happened in a story. For shorter books it is important to read first for decoding, secondly for fluency and thirdly to discuss characters and setting. A longer book may only be read once providing your child can explain what happened in the story. When you are satisfied that this has happened please remind your child to hand it in with their red book in the morning so it can be changed.

The red book that has been handed out is a place to record any homework completed. It is expected that your child reads to an adult each night for a minimum of 10 minutes and this is recorded in the grids stuck into the books. In addition there should also be a list of words which directly link to the stage your child reached at the end of Foundation Stage. These words need to be learnt by sight. They will be replaced on Fridays if they can read them independently at school.

As reading has such a high priority in Year 1, we have also decided to give your child the sheets of words they have been using in their phonics lessons. This will be different for each child as there are 5 groups across all 3 classes. Again, these words directly link to your child's progress from Foundation Stage. We would like these (simpler words) to be learnt as spellings that will be checked on Fridays.

We are learning about animals and their habitats as our theme this term and it would be great if you could help your child make a representation of any habitat which appeals to them using small boxes. The main purpose of this is to discuss what they have been learning about and encourage them to be inquisitive to find out more. We would like these to be completed by the last week of this term.

During the week all children will spend daily, quality time in small groups working with an adult. These sessions are linked to individual needs based on prior learning. At other times of the day there are small challenges set around the classroom for independent learning. When completed a coloured cube is awarded. If all cubes are collected during the day the children are rewarded with some time in the soft play area. This promotes self motivation and independence. There are always play based activities available to choose to promote social skills and imagination, including a role play area where costumes can be tried on and the jeep can be 'driven' to anywhere.

Please do not hesitate to ask any member of the Year 1 team if you have any questions.

Mrs Hunt, Miss Harrison & Miss Simoes