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1st October 2021

Dear parents/guardians,

We would like to welcome you to Year 1. This year we used the first week as a transitional week to help support the children coming together from the three different Reception classes. We felt this was important to do in order to settle the children into Year 1 together.

In Year 1 the daily organisation is more structured and choices of activities linked to previous/ current learning called Explore and Learn time. This can often be an initial challenge for some children to get used to and adapt to in the first half term of Year 1. We continue to encourage the use of outdoors as an additional learning environment and try to use outside areas most days to enrich the children's learning. Please ensure your child has the correct clothing to access outside e.g. coat in bad weather and a hat in warmer weather. Please continue to drop off the children to either their classroom (Ladybird and Butterfly) or the playground (Hedgehog). We are very happy to speak to you whenever necessary however it is more convenient if you wait until after all of the children are dismissed at the end of the day. Of course you are always welcome to send an email to your child's class teacher.

Our topic for this term is called 'Incredible Me and My Super Senses', we will be learning about the parts of the body and our senses.

Key information:

Phonics – We are currently teaching phonics in our own classrooms while we assess the children as to where they are with their phonic knowledge. We intend to set the children across Year 1 into differentiated phonics groups in order to target individual needs after October half-term.

Words of the Week - We are revising the high frequency words from Reception this half term. We are aware many of your children can already read and spell these words but we want to boost children's confidence in this transition time. We will then be moving onto the

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Year 1 common exception words which the children need to be able to read, spell and apply by the end of Year 1.

Reading – Please hear your child read as often as you can and please don't forget to encourage your child to read anything! Please write in the reading record book, children will have next steps and key words to focus on too. Children will read their reading book as often as possible at school in a week. Informal reading happens all the time. Lots of reading opportunities take place in phonics sessions too.

Explore and Learn - In year 1, Explore and Learn time is a time for reinforcing their learning and practising their next steps. There is less free play time than in Reception, children are expected to choose an activity that will support their learning and practise their skills.

PE kit – Please make sure it fits and don't forget names and outdoor wear, you will need to regularly check your child's plimsolls/trainers to make sure they fit- if your child has shoes with laces please teach them to tie them up independently! Please ensure all long hair is tied up and earrings taped or taken out before school.

PPA – This year covering Year 1 teacher's PPA day will be Miss Helen Beeney, she knows our school routines well.

Homework – Homework will be sent home in a pink book with a sticker explaining the task. Year 1 homework will be topic based, maths or phonic related. Please support your child and encourage them to complete the homework allowing them write in their books independently.

Kind regards,
The Year 1 Team

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