Welcome to Year 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Year One. We hope you have enjoyed your holidays. It’s hard to believe how quickly the summer holidays pass. We are so pleased with how well the children are all settling into Year One and we are having a great time getting to know each other whilst learning new routines.

We know that the transition from Reception to Year One is huge. We want to reassure you all that your child will probably find the Autumn Term the most difficult but this is completely normal and it does get easier. The days feel long as the daylight hours grow shorter and they will feel tired. Although there will still be child led learning, like in Reception, there is increasingly more structure in Year One as we begin following the National Curriculum. What is wonderful about Year One is that you will see your child make huge progress and all of a sudden things will become much easier for them.

Phonics and Reading

Over the next couple of weeks your child will be assessed on their phonic knowledge and they will then separate daily into our phonics groups as they did in Reception. Within these groups they will bring home reading books to share that they will be familiar with. Although books will be changed on a Friday, please ensure reading books and reading diaries are brought to school every day so that they are always available as we often have volunteers who will listen to children read as well as Mrs Kavanagh and myself sometimes finding the opportunity to do so as well. We know that listening to your child read every night can be difficult to fit in and often can feel quite slow and repetitive as they are learning the skills but then suddenly they will turn a corner and all the hard work pays off. We can’t emphasise enough how much children benefit from reading regularly at home and we really value your support with this. In Year One we become part of the ‘Read Around the World Challenge’ run by Mr Coates. For each entry in your child’s diary they earn a point and if they have read 3 times of more in one week they will get a sticker to correspond with this. Their points will also add towards their house team total. Each house is challenged to get the most points to fly around the world and reach new destinations with the winning team enjoying fun and frolics with Mr Coates.

In June 2026 we have to administer a national phonics screening check for all the Year One children. We will provide further information about this in a meeting nearer the time but to give you an idea of what it entails, they read forty words, some are real and some are alien (nonsense). The idea is that they are able to decode the sounds and read the word. Although we have to report individual scores, the children are not aware that they are being tested and the word ‘test’ is never mentioned; they just think they are reading to myself.

Homework

Homework will be handed out on a Friday and should be returned completed by the following Wednesday. The homework we send will reinforce what the children have been taught during the week. We know that homework can sometimes be a challenge for families and we always say that if you are having a bit of a battle trying to get your child to complete it or they are struggling with it or getting upset don’t do it, just let us know and we can help with it in school.

P.E

P.E will generally be on a Wednesday morning and a Friday afternoon. Please ensure your child has their P.E kit in school and that all items are labelled; this is a huge help when I am trying to get all of the children changed and wearing their own clothes! Please encourage your child to practise getting dressed at home to help them get changed quickly and independently in school.

Craft work

It would be great if all the children could have their own painting shirt in school in order to protect their uniform as much as possible when painting and gluing etc. Please try to provide an old shirt / t-shirt that belonged to an adult that the children can put on over their own uniform. This is really useful. Thank you.

Little accidents

As we know the children can all have little toilet accidents at times. If this happens we will obviously help them get changed into fresh clothes. To help with this it would be good if all the children could have a spare set of underwear in their bag as they will clearly be happier putting on their own clothes as against having to borrow some from school. If you have any extra spare clothes that we could hold in class please pass these in as it’s always good to have a few extras. Thank you.

Forest School

We will be taking part in Forest School sessions across the term and I will let you know the dates for these as and when. Please send your son / daughter into school on these days in the appropriate clothing.

Water bottles and coats

Just a quick reminder that all children should only have plain water in their bottles for drinking during the school day – no flavoured water or juice is allowed.

Please can I ask that your children always have a coat in school as there are times during the week when we will head outside for our learning even in the rain!

Come and meet me

You are invited to come into school on Tuesday 16th September at 5pm to meet myself and to look around your child’s classroom. There will be opportunity to ask questions and I will share some of the work and activities we will be doing over the next 12 months together.

Penguin Day

We will be holding, what is quickly becoming an annual event, our Penguin Day on Tuesday 21st October. This is where the children are all encouraged to come to school dressed as penguins (or wearing black and white if that is easier). We will take part in a range of penguin activities and trails around school. It’s all great fun.

Visit to Chester Cathedral

Just a heads up - we are off to Chester Cathedral for the day on Tuesday 25th November. We will be taking part in an activity called ‘Nativity on the Move’ and also engaging in a Christmas Workshop, as well as having a chance to visit the Christmas Tree Festival. As soon as the coach is booked for this trip I will let you know the cost but I anticipate it to be around £15.

We hope that all the children will enjoy the new challenges and approaches to learning that Year One has to offer. However, if you have any questions at all, any concerns or there is something you need to let us know about, please do not hesitate to send us an email at admin@frodshamce.cheshire.sch.uk or phone the school office and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

Kindest regards,

Miss Riddiough and Mrs Kavanagh.