



Welcome to Year 1 & 2

September 2026

Reading– How to support your child

Learning to read with fluency, accuracy and expression is a vital part of the Key Stage 1 curriculum.

Your child will usually be heard reading in school, as part of a guided group. They will focus on developing one or two key reading skills during the session. A home reading diary will let you know which skills each book focuses on, so that you can support your child at home.

Reading books will be sent home on a weekly basis (although not until Friday 18th September.) They will be due back into school on the following Tuesday. It is particularly important that books are returned on a Tuesday morning, so that the next group can start to read them. We don't have multiple sets of each book title and would be really grateful for your support with this. Your child may also have flash cards sent home from time to time. These are designed to increase your child's word recognition. The whole list of exception words are included in your child's reading bag. We will work through these over the year.

We ask that you read with your child at least three times per week. These don't need to be long sessions, sometimes, it might just be going over a few keywords, but a little and often approach is really helpful for children to secure their reading.

In school, we are encouraging children to read and re-read the same sentence, page or book. The first read through focuses on decoding, whilst subsequent reads enable children to improve reading speed and fluency. This is a key part to reading progress. There is lots of evidence that daily reading with your child—even for a few minutes—will ensure that they make good progress. Once children become confident to decode words and begin to develop reading fluency, we will assess their reading speed. By the end of the year, we are looking for a reading speed of between 60 and 70 words per minute for Year 1 pupils and for Year 2 between 90 and 100 words per minute.

Reading for pleasure is also a huge focus for us in school. Teachers will read daily to the children, allowing them to access and discuss more difficult texts that they are not yet able to read independently. Please keep up your bedtime story routine at home. Children in Year 1 and 2 are definitely not too old for this and it is a great way to relax at the end of the day. In school, we have selected our books really carefully, trying to pick ones that the children will really enjoy. We also are trying to develop the children's knowledge of popular authors, so they are able to talk about their favourite authors and what they like about them. So where we read a focus text in our English lessons, we will read a range of books by the same author. This will allow us to compare the books, looking for similarities and differences.

Children will have daily ERIC time (Everyone Reading in Class) to develop their independent reading. This is usually the first 15 minutes after lunchtime. Teachers use this time to hear individual children read.

Look out for our first reading café, where we will invite you to drop in for a cuppa and to read with your child.



Inside this issue:

Supporting your child's reading
About our classes.

Homework bags

Maths in Key Stage 1

What we will be learning
Dates for your diary

Our rewards

KS1 Philosophy
How you can help us.

Behaviour and rewards

Home-work/Reading books will be sent home for all classes on a Friday.

Bags should be returned on the following Tuesday.

Many thanks for your support.

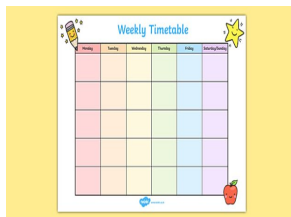


Maths

During the first half term, both year groups will be focusing on place value—counting forwards and backwards to 20 and then to 100 and beyond. Following this, children will begin work on addition and subtraction. For Year 1 pupils, this is within 10 and then 20. For Year 2 children, they will focus on adding and subtracting two digit numbers within 100. A typical lesson includes time for arithmetic, teacher led activities, independent tasks and opportunities to complete further challenges. We teach maths using I do, we do, you do format which gives children time to see concepts explained and modelled whilst also being given the opportunity to complete activities independently. Maths homework will be set weekly on the Purple Mash Platform. Let us know if you have problems accessing this.

Timetables

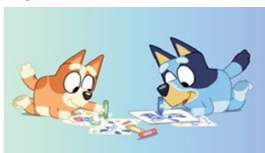
There's a copy of your child's class timetable on the school website (in the Y1/2 area.)



Safeguarding—nothing is more important to us than the safety of your children. Can we please ask that you support us at the end of the school day, by standing where your child and the teacher can see you. Please notify the school office if collection arrangements change. Parents should only come into the school building if accompanied by a teacher. Thank you.

Key Stage 1's Philosophy—Be the Best You Can Be!

Our reward certificates are all based around our school values of 'Work Hard', 'Never Give Up' and 'Be Nice'. We have assigned familiar characters to these traits to support the children's understanding of what they look like day to day. Woody from Toy Story represents being nice, Lion King's Simba is never give up and Bluey represents working hard. Certificates are given out in our weekly Key Stage 1 assembly.



About Our Classes

Buttercup Class— 22 children (a mixture of Year 1 and Year 2) taught by Miss Pickstock and Mrs Clampitt

Daffodil Class— 24 children (a mixture of Year 1 and Year 2) taught Miss Mercer

Sunflower Class—21 children (a mixture of Year 1 and Year 2) taught by Mrs Clampitt and Mrs Mallon



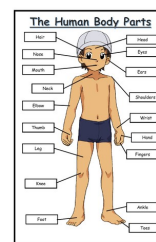
So what are we going to be learning about this term?

Science

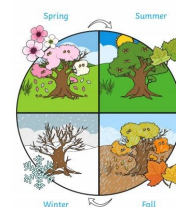
In Science the children start the term by looking at seasonal changes. We will look at the four seasons and which months of the year belong in which season. We will also look at weather in the different seasons and how this affects trees and animals. We will also explore the changes to daylight hours and temperatures.

After half term we will focus on human life cycles. Children will know that humans and other animals have offspring that grow up to be adults.

They will look at what humans need to survive and how they stay healthy. This includes eating a balanced diet—children will learn about the different food groups. They will also learn about the importance of exercise, sleep and drinking water.



Order of Seasons



History

We start with a short block, entitled 'What is History?' looking at our own history. Then after half term we will move onto learning about The Plague and The Great Fire of London. This has been a really popular topic in the past, so we have brought it back, hoping that the children will love learning about what happened in the

Mystery Reader

We would be delighted to have you in to be a 'mystery reader' - please email the school office if you are available to come and read a story to your child's class at the end of the day. Or catch a member of

Geography

Our first unit is called 'Where am I?' and will include learning about compass directions. Then we will move onto learning about famous landmarks across the four countries of the UK.



Art and DT

In Art, we will develop our colour mixing skills in our first unit and create a, Clarice Cliff inspired design, then we move on to using clay to make houses.

In DT we create 'Moving Monsters' using a variety of mechanisms and levers. This will be linked to our English focus 'Where the Wild Things Are'.



PE

Children should continue to come to school dressed in their PE kit (plain black jogging bottoms, leggings or shorts; a white tee shirt; a green sweat shirt or Greenleas hoody)

We will be focusing on ball skills and dance this term.

PE lessons are on a Tuesday for all classes.

Dates for your diary

Friday 25th September
Macmillan Coffee morning

Monday 12th October
Harvest assembly

Tuesday 6th October
Individual Photographs

Wednesday 7th & Thursday
8th October—Parents'
evenings

Friday 23rd October
INSET day—children not in
school. Half term begins.

Monday 4th November
School starts PSHE/well-
being day

Monday 9th November
Remembrance assembly &
start of anti-bullying week

Wednesday 11th November
Remembrance Assembly

Friday 13th November
Children in Need

Monday 7th November and
Tuesday 8th November—ICT
focus days

Friday 11th December
KS1 Nativity

Friday 20th December
School Closes



How you can help us:

- ◆ Support your child's learning with a 'little and often' approach to practice key skills, such as reading, spelling, phonics and counting.
- ◆ Please don't allow children to bring in things from home, apart from a water bottle and a packed lunch (if they bring one). School bags/back packs should not be brought to school.
- ◆ Talk to us if you have any concerns or worries. We are ALWAYS here to help.

Our Behaviour and Rewards System

We will continue to use Dojos, certificates and recognition boards to support children to behave to the highest standards. Of course we rely on your support for this at home too.

Please continue to send in photos and news from home for your child to share with the class.

Just a reminder—we don't reply to messages on Dojo. The best way to discuss any concerns is at the gate in the morning or for more private issues, please make an appointment with your child's teacher.

This year we are continuing to use the **Zones of Regulation**. This teaches the children to recognize their own emotions and learn how to manage these in order to feel calm and ready to learn.

