



Year 1 Newsletter - September 2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have been so impressed with how the children have settled into their new class. We are looking forward to getting to know them even more and support their transition from EYFS to KS1 in the following weeks. We would like to share a few details about how we work in Year 1.

Mrs Jones will teach the children every day. Miss Holdsworth will teach the children R.E. and P.S.H.E on a Monday morning. We have three classroom assistants - Mrs Mellors, Mrs Friend and Miss Pimm.

Mornings

Please drop off your child by the Year 1 wooden gates - we line up on the blue line until the bell rings and we will guide them to class, this ran really smoothly today - thank you for your support. School starts at 8.45 a.m. please be as close to this time as you can as we have a very busy morning in Year 1 - starting phonics at 9 a.m. The school day for Year 1 ends at 3.20pm. I am getting to know Parents/Guardians that I haven't met previously as quickly as possible - bear with me as it can take a couple of days. Please let school know if Grandparents or other relatives are picking up. If your child is being collected by another parent please email the office or let a member of Year 1 staff know in the morning.

Readers

This week your child will choose a reading book for pleasure to bring home- a story for your child to enjoy alone or with an adult. We will begin to send reading books home as initial assessments are made. Assessed reading books sent home are for children to read independently and should be read with 95% accuracy. Children will bring one book home a week and will change them on their reading days. I will let the children know their reading days next week. We will continue using the Go read app/diary again this year. Please make sure that reading books are in your child's book bag every day to help with possible extra reading time, where possible.

P.E.

Please could all children bring a named P.E. kit (black shorts, house colour polo shirt, trainers or pumps with Velcro fastenings) for next week? Thank you for kits already in school. PE kit need to be in a small named bag which will stay in school until the end of half term. P.E. days are on Wednesday p.m. and Friday p.m.

Homework

In Year 1 children are expected to read regularly throughout the week - 10 minutes each evening is ideal. You will also receive key words to learn throughout the year. Children will start to receive homework on Friday through Seesaw, to be completed by Wednesday the following week. Homework will be a mixture of Maths, English and Topic related work. Children will start to receive homework on Friday 8th September.

Rewards

We strive to have happy, motivated and well-behaved children. We have a behaviour system called 'The Waverton Way':

- Be safe
- Be ready
- Be respectful

The class has a 'working on' target wall for things like, 'keeping our classroom tidy' if they achieve this their name is put in the gold area called 'above and beyond'. Children who move to gold will win a reward. We will also have individual reward charts - 'Paddington's Perfect stars'; when the children collect 10 stars they win a prize. House points (marbles) in class which children win for working hard or good behaviour these go into house team boxes and are counted up on a Friday. The winner (house team) is then announced. The winning team go out to play first.

Snack

We continue snack time in the morning in Year 1. The children will have a drink, fruit and we will offer the children an additional snack e.g. toast, crackers, breadsticks, pancakes etc. for a small voluntary contribution of £5 per half term and will be payable via SchoolMoney. Any funds left over from snack money are used to buy classroom equipment. I'm sure Year 1 will come up with some ideas of equipment they would like in their new classroom!

Belongings

Although we know how much children love little toys, we would ask that they leave them at home from next week as they get very distracted by them during the day. We will provide them with all the play things they need in school.

Topic

Our first topic in Year 1 is 'How has transport changed?' We will be reading 'Mr Gumpy's outing' by John Burningham. Also looking at lots of non-fiction texts about transport and how it has changed over time. In Science we will be learning about the body and our senses. The children are really looking forward to the Waverton travel agents opening in class next week! After half term we will be learning about the weather and the seasons and reading 'Lost and Found' by Oliver Jeffers.

I am really looking forward to this year and working with such a fantastic class. If you have any questions, concerns or problems please do not hesitate to contact me. Please note it is easiest to hold discussions after school rather than the morning as I have to make sure all the children get into school safely.

Many thanks,

Mrs Jones, Mrs Mellors, Mrs Friend and Miss Pimm