



5th September 2017

Dear Parents

September already! We hope you all had a happy summer holiday.

We look forward to teaching your children this year, and hope that they feel happy and confident about moving up from Reception to Year 1. This is a difficult transition for many children, and we've grown to expect a fair amount of tears and upset during the first few days of term. If your child is worried or reluctant to come to school this week, be assured that it rarely lasts for long. Please do let us know if your child has any particular concerns; a problem shared is a problem halved!

This year, Lisa Cray will be teaching from Monday to Thursday each week. Louisa Cudmore will teach the class every Friday. Lin Luke and Jack Rickard are our Teaching Assistants, and Lucy Hutley and Liz Hore are our Learning Support Assistants.

The Year 1 curriculum is different to that followed in Year R. The children work to a very busy timetable, covering 11 subject areas. The morning session begins at 8:50am with Wake and Shake/assembly, and the children start work in class afterwards. Please be on time! Our phonics session is up and running straight away and it is vital that your child is present from the beginning, as this session has a huge impact on reading and writing development. English and maths are covered in morning sessions whilst all other subjects are covered during our cross-curricular afternoons. The school day finishes at 3pm, as in Year R. There is lots of work to cover, and we attach a summary of the curriculum for your information.

We aim to introduce the children gradually to the new timetable and routines in Year 1, the biggest change being a slightly more structured day. Please be aware that your child may find the new workload quite tiring to begin with! This is to be expected, and they soon adapt to the changes.

As in Class R your child will continue to bring home their reading book on a daily basis, along with their reading record, in which you should make a note of reading homework completed, along with any comments on progress or problems. Your child will also bring home their spelling list each Monday, with the week's spellings to be practised at home. Please aim to spend five minutes each day on practicing these words. Details and guidance will accompany the first list next week.

The children have PE on Wednesday afternoons and will need the usual kit, shorts, tee-shirt, socks and plimsolls. We also have Forest School on Wednesdays, so a pair of wellies and waterproofs are a good idea!

Again, please let us know if you or your child has any worries or concerns. We are always available for a chat, and do like to be informed of any problems at all!

Finally, a request for help! We need some volunteers to come in and listen to readers. This involves either a morning or an afternoon session each week – we are very flexible! Your support is so valuable, and has a great impact on the children's development. Please speak to Mrs Cray, Mrs Cudmore or Mrs Luke if you have some time to spare and would like to help. Thank you in advance.

Here's to a happy and successful first term!

Yours Sincerely

Lisa Cray and Louisa Cudmore
Class Teachers