

Dear Parent/Carer

We hope the information below will be useful in helping you to understand our expectations. However, if you have any questions or queries regarding your child's time at school, please do not hesitate to make contact with Mr Eva, Miss Anderson or any of the other Year 1 staff. No issue is too small -

Seeing the teacher

Teachers need to be greeting children from 8.45am as they come in, so please do not try to see them at this time. Notes and messages given to the school office in the morning will be passed on. Teachers are available at the end of the day but they might have a club or meeting, so it is best to make an appointment to see them either through the office or with the teacher themselves, especially if the conversation may take some time. More formal parent's evening meetings take place in October and March.

Medicines

If your child needs to take any medicine, please complete the relevant paperwork, which can be obtained from the school office. School will consider whether we are able to administer the medication and liaise with you.

Timekeeping and Attendance

Children should arrive at school from 8:45 when the gates open. Children need to be in school as things change quickly and we don't want anyone falling behind. To encourage this, we will be rewarding good attendance: termly for individuals and weekly for classes. At the end of the year, those with 100% attendance all year will be rewarded.

Homework

Homework will be sent home on Friday and should be returned on the following Wednesday. In Year 1, the homework will be a simple activity each week, designed to introduce the children to the routines and expectations further up the school. We anticipate that each activity will take no longer than 10-15 minutes. On the odd occasion, we understand that the children may not be able to complete their homework – if this is the case, there is an opportunity for them to complete it on Wednesday lunchtimes.

Reading Record Books

Your child will be bringing home a book, which will help to record how much they are reading by giving a space for you to write a comment and sign your name whenever you hear them read. We would like to encourage you to hear your child read every day, for around 5-10 minutes if possible. Short and regular sessions are shown to be far more effective for early readers than longer but less frequent sessions. Even if you believe that your child is a confident independent reader, listening to them read is important. Listening to children read regularly is shown to impact positively on the children's reading ability, confidence and understanding.

Behaviour

Children will be rewarded for good attendance, work and behaviour through house points, Star of the Week, our Board of Excellence (where the best piece of work of the term is displayed) and Headteacher awards. When behaviour is not as we expect, warnings will be given. Should they make poor choices, your child could receive a yellow or red slip from school. Please see our Behaviour Policy on the school website for more information. We will, of course, speak to you if we have any concerns about your child's behaviour.

PE Kit/PPA

PE is delivered by our sports coaches, who cover the teacher's PPA (preparation, planning and assessment) time, and kit needs to be in school for the weekly lessons. PE is on the National Curriculum and therefore compulsory, so we are obliged to ensure children participate. For this reason, if your child does not have kit in school, they will be given borrowed kit from our store. **In line with government guidance, earrings must now be taken out for PE.** Staff are not allowed to help children remove earrings so please bear this in mind on PE days which, for Year 1, is usually Fridays. We request that siblings do not share a kit as this involves disrupting learning in other classes. Daps are to be worn for PE in the school hall. Trainers are ideal for outside PE, particularly when it is wet or potentially muddy.

Jewellery

No jewellery (including loom band bracelets) is allowed, except watches which are brought into school at your child's own risk, and stud earrings for pierced ears. These will need to be removed for PE by the children, or not brought to school on those days.

Hair

Long hair is to be tied back. Hairbands should be plain and simple with no large floral arrangements. Haircuts and styles should be smart and suitable for school.

Water bottles

We encourage all children to have a water bottle in class – no juice or squash please. Please ensure that water bottles are clearly named. Children don't need to bring a snack in KS1 as they are given a free piece of fruit or vegetable each day. However, if they would prefer to bring their own snack, they can bring in a piece of fruit or some vegetables.

Milk

If your child would like to have a carton of milk each day, please contact the school office who can provide details on how this can be ordered. If you are currently paying for your child to have milk, please check with them that they are drinking it, as we often have wasted milk (and wasted money) at the end of the day.

Volunteers

If you have any special skills or would like to volunteer to hear children read, please let your child's teacher know. Volunteers will need a DBS check before working with children, and the office staff will be happy to help you with this.

Thank you for your continued support.