

We are a global community, learning and growing together.



Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September,

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 1 and the new school year! This term, our topic is **Fairytales**. Through this topic the children will experience learning in literacy, science, computing, geography, music, art and design and technology.

**Curriculum meeting:** I have arranged a Year 1 Curriculum meeting for Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September at 14:30 in the Staff Room I look forward to seeing you there but don't worry if you can't make it. All the information is in this letter

**Maths** in Year 1 begins to build on the key skills learnt in the Foundation Class. We will start by revising place value and becoming really familiar with numbers to 20 before moving on to simple addition and subtraction.

**English** will include looking at a selection of fiction, non-fiction and poetry books. Every week we have a Writing session on Thursday mornings. The children will have a Talk Homework each week (see below in the Homework section).

**PE will be on Monday and Friday mornings.** This will include gym, dance and games. Children need to have a PE kit labelled with their name (shorts, t-shirt, plimsolls or trainers) in school on these days. Please keep your child's PE kit on their peg all week as occasionally we may have PE on a different day or they may need a change of clothes! It is a good idea to include a pair of tracksuit bottoms and a sweatshirt for cooler weather.

**Reading:** I will aim to hear the children read as soon as possible and then weekly. However, **every child should bring their book bag to school every day. In their book bag they should have one reading book and their yellow school reading record (they will receive a new one this week). We'll visit the school library once a week and borrow a book.** Please only take one reading book at a time so there is plenty for everyone and you can change them in the morning or at the end of the school day. I encourage the children to keep their reading book for a few days; however, they should be changed regularly. Please involve your child in changing their book as it is important for them to have a personal choice, but ensure they choose a book that is a suitable level for them.



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**Homework:** We ask that children spend about 10-15 minutes a day reading or sharing books with you at home. Whenever you read with your child please record it in their yellow reading record book. **I will also include words for your child to practise each week written in clouds.** If you can practise these at home as often as possible during the week then I will check them during our reading session and send more as appropriate.

The children can also practise their maths and reading on the Active Learn website ([activelearnprimary.co.uk](http://activelearnprimary.co.uk)) and Education City. **The children's usernames and passwords will be stuck into their reading diaries.**

**Every Tuesday the children will receive a Talk Homework.** Please talk to your child about the week's topic so that they feel prepared for the writing session. **There is no need to provide them with writing to copy.** I prefer to encourage them to have a go on their own even in the early stages.

**Forest School** will continue this year. You can find out more about it at the Curriculum Meeting on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September. We will also be sending a letter home. Let us know if you are interested in helping this is always much appreciated.

**Staffing:** I will teach the children every day. During my non-contact time (once a week) the children are taught by Marie Thompson (Year 1 TA) and Mrs Alison Aston.

**Tissues:** Cough and cold season is nearly upon us! Please could every family donate a box of tissues as you would be amazed how many boxes get used up during this time!

**Water bottles:** Please could every child bring a named water bottle to school so they can have regular drinks during the day. Ideally these bottles need to be taken home every night for a wash!

Finally, **please do not hesitate to come and see me or any other member of staff if you have any questions.** I am happy to help!

Penelope Lea