



Welcome to Joy class and Year 1!

September 2019

Welcome to Year 1 and Joy class. The children have all returned to school brimming with stories of their summer holidays and ready to embrace the new challenges in Year 1, which includes the use of a newly resourced outside area. We will start the term with some settling in activities so that we can really get to know your children. Mrs Magson will be teaching on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with Mrs Pitman-Jones teaching on Wednesday. Mrs Kelsey will cover Mrs Magson's release time on a Thursday afternoon. We will be supported every morning by either Mrs Wilson or Mrs Marchant.

Leaving Reception behind and moving into Year 1 can feel like a big step for both children and their parents! Our first job is to make this transition easier for everyone by supporting the children (and their parents!) in their next learning step. The children will still be learning through play, they will still be exploring, discovering and making plenty of use of their role-play corner. Your child's day may be a little more structured than it was in Rainbow class and they may have to sit at a table for a little longer than they are used to, but they will still also be learning in a variety of ways; while moving, exploring outdoors, in groups, on the carpet or walking around the school!

Children will continue to be taught in small groups by either a teacher or a teaching assistant and there will still be an emphasis on continuous provision – these are child initiated indoor and outdoor activities which the children complete throughout the day. As the year progresses, we will move towards more whole class teaching and learning where the children will encounter a more subject based approach. We aim to begin our new topic 'Memory Box' in week 3.

Reading and phonics in Year 1

We will aim to hear every child read at least once a week. During this time, we will offer the children the chance to change their books if there is evidence that they have read them at home. Some parents become concerned about their children having the same reading books all week but please remember that reading books more than once and becoming very familiar with them is important so please don't worry. You may not always have time to read the whole book (schools understand home life is busy — lots of teachers are parents too) but just a few pages a day can increase their confidence and get them into the routine of practising and applying their phonic knowledge. Sometimes your child may want to read a book from home or the library - as long as they are reading, that's fantastic. Most children this age really love to read new and familiar stories.

Your child can select two books each time from the colour band they are currently reading. They will be assessed and moved through the scheme when they are ready and equipped for the next level. If you feel that your child has become really fluent reading a particular book before it is due to be changed then please see us and we will try to oblige.

Phonics is a big part of Year 1. Your child will continue to expand on their knowledge of phonics and will probably surprise you with just how quickly they develop their reading. They will do 20 minutes of structured phonics learning each day, just as they did in Rainbow.

Spellings

After a few weeks, your child will receive weekly spellings that will contain words that are related to our phonics teaching, words that follow a spelling rule as well as high frequency words. You will be informed which day your child will be tested when they are set. Please help your child to learn their spellings at home in a relaxed and fun way.

PE in Year 1

P.E. will be on **Mondays and Fridays**. PE will be both indoors and outdoors so the children will need shorts, a t-shirt and daps/trainers. Please ensure that all PE kit is labelled. If your child is unable to do PE for any reason, please let us know via a written note. **Your child needs their PE kit to be in school every day in case of timetable changes.**

Uniform

Please ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform including appropriate footwear. Please ask Mrs Pitman-Jones or myself if you have any queries. All uniform should be clearly named. Long hair should be tied back at all times please.

Home Learning

Home learning is an opportunity for you to support your child's learning in school. This helps you to know what they have been learning and spend time with your child reinforcing these skills. As the term progresses, we will introduce very short home learning tasks which will include some activities linked to what we have been learning in class. Look out for more information about this later.

How can I help my child at home?

The most successful children know that their family supports them and shows an interest in their day to day school life.

- Talk to your child about what they are doing at school.
- Encourage them to find out things for themselves.
- Read books with your child. Take them to the local library and help them to choose books.
- Let your child help you in the kitchen and when you are doing other work in the home.
- Listen to your child. Encourage them to ask questions. If you do not have the answer, why not find out together.

Other useful information

Your child can bring a plastic drinks bottle of **water** to school but please make sure it is clearly named. Snacks should be healthy. At school we provide a fruit snack each morning so it is up to you if you would like to provide an additional snack for the afternoon break time. Please make sure that all uniform is named, including hats, shoes and daps. We will go out for break in most weathers so it's advisable to send a raincoat if there is any chance of a shower.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to sharing your child's successes with you.

Mrs Magson Mrs Pitman-Jones Mrs Wilson Mrs Marchant