

September 2026

Year 1

Dear Parents,

I hope you had a wonderful summer holiday and are feeling refreshed and ready for the exciting year ahead. Moving into Year 1 is a big milestone, and I am looking forward to sharing this next stage of your child's learning journey with you. As children transition from Reception into Year 1, there are some changes to daily routines and the structure of the school day. This letter outlines those changes, as well as the exciting learning opportunities planned for the term ahead. As we move into the National Curriculum, the children will explore a range of subjects and develop new knowledge and skills across all areas of learning.

English

This term, the English curriculum will be taught through key texts. During each unit, the children will take part in speaking and listening activities, drama, vocabulary development, and discussions that deepen their understanding of features such as settings, characters and themes. Alongside this, they will take part in weekly handwriting and comprehension lessons, as well as daily phonics sessions that continue the successful structure used in Reception. In Year 1, pupils will be taught Phase 5 phonics. This means they will learn alternative graphemes for phonemes they already know. For example, they will learn the spellings 'ay' and 'a-e' alongside the 'ai' spelling they have already been introduced to. The children will also participate in two guided reading sessions each week.

Mathematics

This term, we will build on the children's understanding of early number and place value through sorting, counting, and representing numbers using objects and drawings. We will then move on to written methods for addition and subtraction within 10, while continuing to develop and use number fact knowledge throughout the term. Alongside this, we will explore the geometry strand of the curriculum. The children will learn to identify and describe 2D and 3D shapes, create patterns, and sort shapes according to their properties. Maths lessons will include a range of practical (concrete), visual (pictorial), and symbolic (abstract) approaches to help children develop a deep understanding of mathematical concepts.

PSHE

This autumn, we will be continuing to use the whole school **myHappymind** programme to support children's understanding of their brains, emotions, and wellbeing. Our focus will be on the Meet Your Brain and Celebrate units, where children will learn about key parts of the brain, the concept of neuroplasticity, and strategies such as Happy Breathing to help manage their feelings. They will explore a range of emotions, understand how these can affect their bodies and behaviour, and learn techniques to move between the Busy, Middle, and Happy Places. We will also learn about bullying, what it is, how it can affect people, and how to respond appropriately. In addition, children will begin to recognise and develop important character strengths such as kindness, bravery, and teamwork, helping them build confidence, resilience, and positive relationships.

Other Subjects

Computing

During the first half term, children will develop their understanding of technology and how it can support them in everyday life. They will learn about e-safety and responsible

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technology use before exploring grouping and sorting using computers. After half term, they will use technology in more creative ways through a range of digital learning activities.

Geography

As geographers, the children will explore the school environment through first-hand observation, map work, and fieldwork. They will learn their home and school addresses and create aerial-view maps of the classroom using drawings, objects, and keys.

History

Our topic on Toys will encourage pupils to think like historians. They will develop their questioning skills and use clues to make historical inferences about toys, considering when they might have originated.

Religious Education

In RE, children will learn about beliefs and practices linked to the idea of belonging to a faith group, while also beginning to reflect on their own beliefs and experiences.

Art/Design and Technology

Inspired by the work of author and illustrator **Eric Carle**, the children will create artwork influenced by his books and use these ideas to develop their own animal illustrations.

In DT, the children will learn how to create moving pictures. They will explore simple mechanisms such as sliders, levers, and rotary mechanisms, develop skills for joining materials, and design and make a moving picture of their own. They will also learn about the Design Cycle and complete each stage, including evaluation.

Music

In Music, the children will listen to and appraise a variety of musical styles. They will have opportunities to sing, move, improvise, compose, and perform. This term, the focus will be on rhythm and percussion.

Homework

Your child will take part in at least two group reading sessions each week. To support the best progress, please encourage them to read daily at home and record this in their reading record book. Re-reading guided reading books helps to build fluency and confidence, so books may not be changed every time they read with an adult. Children will read 2 to 3 different books with school staff each week and can also enjoy additional books from home. Sight words, which cannot easily be sounded out, will be sent home in the Humpty Dumpty book for regular practice. Learning these words by recognising their letter patterns helps children develop reading fluency and confidence.

Additional Information

- Library books will be changed on **Fridays**.
- PE days are **Tuesday** and **Thursday** this term. Children should come to school wearing their PE kit on these days. Please ensure that all items are clearly labelled, as children often remove tracksuits during PE lessons and at playtimes.
- We encourage children to drink water regularly throughout the day and refill their bottles when needed. Please ensure water bottles hold no more than 1 litre.

Should you have any questions about the information above, please do not hesitate to contact me via email or speak to me at the end of the school day once all children have been safely dismissed. I am very much looking forward to an exciting year of learning and growth with your children.

Kind regards,
Miss Ashleigh Cummins

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