

Welcome back! The Year 1 team is looking forward to working in partnership with you to achieve the best for your child. The purpose of this letter is to inform you about what to expect in the new school year.

The children should arrive at school **by 8.30am every morning** when there will be a member of lower school staff welcoming the children at the gate and guiding them to the playground where additional staff will be waiting for them. Parents will not be able to accompany their child to the playground or premises. If you need to talk to a member of staff please call or email the school office. The children will be dismissed at 3:10 pm on the tarmac area of the field, where parents can wait at the end of the day. **Please make sure the school office holds the current contact information about you in case we need to contact you during the school day;** as well as up-to-date dietary and medical information for your child. It is also important that the details we have about your child's home time arrangements (e.g. names of people collecting) are up-to-date.

Your child should attend school in full school uniform, including black shoes (no trainers) and **bring in a book bag, a waterproof coat and a water bottle every day. All items of clothing and personal items (including lunchboxes) should be named.** Keyrings and other 'charms' on book bags and coat zips are useful for quick identification purposes but should be limited to one small one. A spare change of clothes (including underwear and socks) should be provided for each child, this is to be kept in a school PE bag and must be kept in school in case of an 'accident'. "Pre-loved" uniform is a great idea, but please ensure that the name of the previous owner is removed and replaced with your child's name!

We will have PE on Fridays and the children should wear their PE kit to school all day. Please ensure that long hair is tied back and earrings are removed. Our PE kit consists of a Beaumont round neck t-shirt and shorts and plain trainers or plimsolls. In colder weather tracksuit bottoms are recommended. In addition, we ask for a pair of plimsolls to be kept at school in a school shoe bag for extra activities taking place outside the PE lessons.

A Universal Free School meal is provided for each Year One child. **Please help your child to make their choice daily from the lunch menu before they come to school.** The school will also provide a piece of fruit at break time. If you choose to send in a packed lunch from home please note that only healthy food items are allowed and that their mid-morning snack must be fruit only. Your child will need to bring in their own water bottle each day. Water bottles will be replenished regularly during the day. In Year 1 milk is no longer provided free of charge, if you wish your child to continue to receive milk, please follow the link to the Cool Milk website; <https://customers.coolmilk.com/v2/register/>.

The children will be taking home every Thursday their FFt Success for All Phonics reading book. They would have read the book in the class from Monday to Wednesday. They then need to practise reading the book at home daily. This is to allow the child to "gain sufficient accuracy as familiarity with a text is critical to building fluency." Parents should sign and date their child's reading record every time they hear their child read. This book will be changed the following Thursday. In addition to the FFt Phonics weekly home reading book the children will be able to choose other books from the classroom to read for pleasure and share at home with their parents or siblings. Please note that these books will not necessarily be fully decodable or match the school phonics scheme and therefore your child is not expected to read these books independently - they are for reading together. More able readers may, of course, be able to read these books independently, too.

All books and reading records should travel between the school and home every day in the child's bookbag as we will need these when we hear your child read at school. They should be stored in the school bookbag whilst at home to avoid misplacing them and / or any damage to the books. Any books that are lost or damaged at home will need to be paid for by parents as these are an expensive resource and the school budget does not allow for any wastage. Thank you for your understanding!

Weekly spellings are given out each Friday and the children are tested the following Thursday. The children's marked spelling test will be handed in on Friday to allow you the opportunity to see first-hand how they have performed. Weekly home learning will also be sent home on a Friday, this is to be handed in at the **latest** by the following Wednesday to allow time for their work to be marked.

You can best support your child's learning by making sure they attend school regularly and on time, read daily at home and complete all the home learning set. If we feel that there is anything that you could do at home to further support your child's learning, then we will speak to you personally. On the back of the attached "learning map" you will find additional suggestions on how to help your child make good progress. To further complement learning both at school and at home we subscribe to a number of learning apps, such as White Rose 1-minute maths LGfL Busy Things and Purple Mash. Please encourage your child to log on to complete activities regularly!

The children will have a very busy day learning here at school and they will be tired. For best possible learning outcomes, it is important they get enough rest. The NHS recommend eleven hours of sleep for 5 - 6 year-olds. Please consider the amount of afterschool activities your child attends and avoid screen time just before bedtime as this can be detrimental to sleep. Please ensure your child has a nutritious breakfast every morning. Shared meal times provide a good opportunity to chat and catch up, allowing for your child to talk about their day, including any worries they may have - this is shown by research to promote good mental health and have a positive impact on learning outcomes, too.

Your support in helping your child to become more independent at this stage of their schooling is vitally important. They should be encouraged to start taking responsibility for their daily reading, learning their spellings and completing their home learning on time, as well as looking after their own belongings (this is made far easier when all their belongings are named).

The Year One team consists of myself, the teaching assistant- Mrs Karim, Support staff- Mrs Alice Atiemo. Mrs Donohue, our SENDCo, will be teaching the class every other Thursday. Should you have any questions, queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are all very much looking forward to working together with you and your lovely children!

Many thanks for your support.

Eikan Ojobo
Class Teacher

Mrs Donohue
Our SENDCo

Mrs Shamima Karim
Teaching Assistant

Ms Alice Atiemo 1-1 support