

September 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year One! We are all very much looking forward to getting to know your children and you. We have many plans for a fun and exciting year ahead. We are aware that this is a very different start to any academic year for us all. Our initial focus is ensuring that all your children feel safe and happy being back at school. Thank you for your patience while we all become accustomed to new protocols and routines. Here are a few notes about Year One.

### STAFF

The Year One teachers are Mrs Emily Roberts (1ER), Mrs Sarah Chapman and Mrs Hannah Harrison (1CH). Mrs Chapman will be teaching 1CH on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings. Mrs Harrison will teach 1CH on Thursdays and Fridays. All teachers have two hours out of class each week for Planning, Preparation and Assessment Time (PPA). For Year One this will be on Wednesday afternoons. The PPA teachers are Ms Wakeling and Ms Chambers. The Year One classes are supported by very experienced Teaching Assistants, Mrs Sandra Merrett (1ER) and Mrs Lin Shipham (1CH).

### CURRICULUM

This term's topic is called 'Up, Up and Away'. We got our topic off to a flying start with a balloon race! The children have set off labelled biodegradable helium balloons, with compostable ribbon, from our school field. The children wrote their own messages of kindness and wellbeing on the labels and they were attached to the balloons. We have already heard back from someone who found one of the labels in Belgium. The balloon had travelled 297 miles to spread kindness! The children are going to be learning about different things that fly – kites, aeroplanes, hot air balloons and flying animals. They will be designing and making their own kites which we will be flying on the school field. They will find out about superheroes, both fictional and real life. They will learn about the parts of the body and senses. Please see the attached topic information sheet for more details. Note that this may change as the topic evolves! We welcome any resources you may have that may be useful for this topic.

In Reception the children work using the Early Years Foundation Stage. From Year One onwards children are taught the National Curriculum. We aim for as smooth a transition as possible from Reception to Year One. We will be supporting the children from their differing Year One starting points and being mindful that they will have had various learning experiences during the recent school closures due to the pandemic.

The children will continue to be taught a highly structured phonics programme, continuing with Jolly Phonics. There is also a greater emphasis on punctuation and grammar.

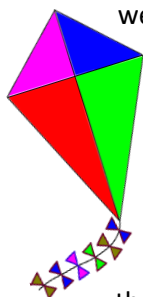
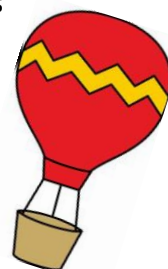
All the children's learning will be part of our creative/topic based curriculum. We will aim to make the learning exciting, meaningful and fun to ensure that the children enjoy their learning whilst making good progress.

### PE

PE lessons will be on Wednesdays and Fridays. However, PE kit should be in school every day. The teachers will send the PE kit home at the end of every half term to be washed and checked. If you would like to wash it more regularly you are, of course, welcome to. Please ensure all PE kit, including trainers, is named and fits properly. As the weather gets colder, the children can bring jogging bottoms and jumper for outdoor lessons. Earrings should be removed on PE days or if ears are newly pierced, tape should be provided to cover them.

### READING

We aim to cultivate a love of reading. We will be enthusiastically sharing many different types of books with the children. As in Reception, the children will be bringing home reading books from our school scheme together with their reading record book. We would encourage you to read with your child daily. This can include sharing stories, poems, comics, magazines, recipes, signposts etc. Please record in the reading record book when you read with your child. We will also be hearing the children



read and changing their books regularly in school. If your child needs new reading books, please put their book bag in the box provided outside their class in the mornings.

### SNACKS

Please ensure your child brings in a named healthy snack and water bottle each day. These can be placed in the coloured house team buckets outside of the classrooms every morning. There will be a fruit/vegetable snack provided by the school for afternoons. We remind you that we are a nut free school.



### SHOW AND TELL



Children are welcome to bring in items for show and tell on Fridays. The items will be kept in their own bag or drawer. The items should either be topic related or to celebrate an out of school achievement or experience. Children should NOT bring in items such as, toys, teddies, swapping cards, fidget spinners, pencil cases etc. It can cause distress if they get lost or broken.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments please do not hesitate to speak to one of us. We are available for short queries at the beginning of the day or at the end of the year one school day (3.10). We would much prefer you came and spoke to us than worry.



Mrs Roberts



Mrs Chapman



Mrs Harrison



Mrs Merrett



Mrs Shipham

