



Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to Year 1. Throughout this term we will be continuing a daily session of Child Initiated learning in the afternoons which we hope will go some way to help our children settle quickly into the more formal learning environment and demands of the Year 1 curriculum. These sessions will be phased out gradually towards the end of Term 2.

This term our children will continue using the cursive handwriting scheme, which the children will complete during the week. I will have copies available during the meet and greet.

Our focus during this year is on reading and with this in mind, books are changed twice a week but **these days will vary, depending on the group your child is in**. They will be given 2 books at each book change to ensure they have a book to read daily, giving you a chance to read and enjoy a book with your child often. We continue to encourage the reading of Bug Club books and they will be released as your child reads. Your child's book will be changed once the contact book has been signed; it is really important that you sign the contact book because if it is not signed the book will not be changed. Please also ensure you only use one page per week in the reading record books. I encourage the children to read for at least 10 minutes every night as this will stimulate their love of reading and increase their vocabulary.

The children will receive their new books tomorrow in their new book wallets. Over the course of the first few weeks, your child will be assessed and please do not be alarmed if your child appears to have dropped down a stage. In Year 1 we encourage the children to have a sound understanding of the story and therefore are assessing the children for different reading capabilities.

In addition, library books will be changed once a week on a Friday. Please could you ensure that the children are able to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity as they love being able to choose their own books. I do not expect the children to always be able to read the books they have chosen and therefore ask you to enjoy their choice with them.

The phonics programme, Letters and Sounds, introduced in Reception, will be continued on a daily basis throughout the year. I will be introducing very simple spelling tests which will focus on spelling patterns which support your child's phonic learning. **Your child will receive their spellings on a Monday, and their spelling test will be the following Monday. Your child will also receive a short piece of Maths or English homework every Thursday.** I would be grateful if this could be returned to class by the **latest of Wednesday** of the following week. This homework should be familiar for your child as it will follow on from the current week's learning. Therefore, this should not be a cause for concern and your child should be able to do this work independently. Please only spend 20 minutes maximum on the homework and there will always be a space for you to comment if necessary.

PE will take place in the afternoons during the week. I may take other opportunities to participate in sporting activities so please make sure your child's PE kit is always in school.

Finally, I would like to reiterate that all members of staff in Year 1 are always available at the end of each day if you have any worries or concerns that you would like to discuss, or contact the school office to arrange a meeting with me. I look forward to seeing you at the Meet and Greet afternoon.

Kind regards,  
Mrs Gallagher