



# INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

## September 2025

### YEAR 1



We would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child into Year 1 and to inform you of some important information relevant to this year's curriculum, procedures and other items of interest.

#### **Class 3 – Positive Penguins**

**Teacher** Miss Bailey  
**Learning Support Assistant** Mrs Cruse

#### **Class 4 – Sensational Seals**

**Teachers** Miss Bright and Mrs Wiltshire  
**Learning Support Assistant** Mrs Tate

#### **School Uniform**

Please ensure that every item of clothing, (including hats, gloves, scarves and coats) is **clearly labelled with your child's name**, as much time can be wasted trying to identify owners of lost property. Any items of lost property are kept in the school office.

#### **Absence**

If your child is absent from school, please phone the office on the first morning of the absence. When your child returns to school, please send a letter confirming the reason for absence. If children are persistently absent, the Attendance Officer may ask for a doctor's note to confirm illness. Absences due to holidays taken in term time will be unauthorised by the Headteacher unless in **exceptional** circumstances.

#### **Punctuality**

Our school aim is to prepare children to be responsible citizens and we strive to encourage a positive attitude to learning. Please make every effort to ensure your child is in school by 8.45, as arriving after this time can be distressing for them and is also disruptive to the rest of the class.

#### **Year 1 Curriculum**

##### **Autumn Term**

*Amazing Animals*

##### **Spring Term**

*Toys*

##### **Summer Term**

*Victorian Schools*

The topics will be addressed via a cross-curricular approach, where links are made with National Curriculum subjects wherever possible.

#### **Mathematics**

Children are taught using 'White Rose Maths'. There are differentiated groups in their own class. The mathematics curriculum covers the following units: Number, Measurement and Geometry. Wherever possible we try to relate mathematics to real life situations and encourage problem solving at every opportunity. We also have a weekly 'Active Maths' lesson which helps consolidate the children's mathematic skills.

#### **English:**

We teach English skills through Read, Write, Inc., a systematic, multi-sensor, phonic based approach to learning. It aims to stimulate, and challenge children's thinking and create enthusiastic and life-long readers. Children are ability grouped and have four sessions per week. There are also daily Talk for Writing lessons. This approach enables children to read and write independently for a variety of audiences and purposes within different subjects. A key feature is that children internalise the language structures needed to write through 'talking the text', as well as close reading.

#### **Reading**

Children are taught to read through RWInc and have opportunities to read every day. Each child has an individual reading turn with an adult each week and some children may have additional reading turns with volunteers. **However, it is vital that you listen to your child read at home daily.** The children will have a RWInc Book Bag book and a self-chosen 'banded book'. If your child has successfully read their books, please supplement them with home or library books. This will enable your child to apply the skills learnt in school to a wider variety of texts. It is **essential** that you make a note in the home/school book when your child reads, so we are able to change their books and note your comments. Children are rewarded for reading at home through our Reading Ladder Challenge, but only if parents/carers confirm that they have read at home.

## **Library books**

These books are for you to share to enhance your child's enjoyment of reading. A new book may only be chosen on return of the previous one. A charge will be made for any lost or damaged books.

## **Jewellery**

Please do not allow your child to wear jewellery of any description to school. Essex County Council Guidelines state that jewellery must not be worn for any PE lessons or physical activity. As the children take part in physical activity on a daily basis, it is not appropriate to wear jewellery **at any time**. Furthermore, any child wearing earrings to school will not be allowed to take part in PE or other physical activity including play times, where a range of play equipment is used and could result in injury.

We're sure you will understand that this policy is in place to keep all children safe. We appreciate your support in enforcing our **NO JEWELLERY** rule. Parents will be contacted if earrings are worn to school.

## **Cooking**

Children may be involved in cooking activities during the year. A contribution of £1.00 towards the cost of ingredients each time your child participates will be appreciated.

## **PE**

Children participate in physical activities daily and have 2 timetabled sessions of PE each week. Our PE lessons are on Monday and Thursday, on these days children should wear their PE uniform – white t-shirt, navy shorts or jogging bottoms, navy jumper, cardigan or fleece and black trousers. For health and safety reasons long hair must be tied back with a **soft** hair tie and jewellery is not permitted.

## **Book bags**

Children should carry their books in **named** waterproof book bags. Please check your child's bag every day as it may contain letters or important information from class teachers. As storage space is limited, we are not able to accommodate any bags, other than school book bags. **Please do not put water bottles in book bags**. For ease of identification, **one small** keyring can be put on your child's book bag.

## **Water**

To help maintain a healthy lifestyle, children are encouraged to drink water frequently throughout the day. We encourage children to bring a **named** water bottle to school every day so that they have free access to a drink at any time. Please ensure that the bottles are clear, leak-proof and have a **sports cap** to avoid spillage onto the children's work. It is the school's policy that the bottles contain only **clear water**.

## **Snacks**

Children are provided with a snack of fresh fruit or vegetables daily. No other snacks are allowed, although you can send your child in to school with some fruit of their choice if you wish. **Please remember that grapes should be cut in half as these are a potential choking hazard.**

## **Additional information**

Your child may bring in a **named** colouring or puzzle book to use during wet playtimes. When completed we will return it and ask that it be replaced.

***Children should not bring toys or any other personal belongings into school unless specifically asked by the child's class teacher.*** Please check with the class teacher if you have something at home you feel will be relevant to the topic.

## **Finally**

We hope your child has settled into Year 1 with ease. However, if you have any worries or concerns at all please come and talk to us so they do not develop into big problems.

Our staff are always happy to help and appreciate respect from all our visitors.