



INFORMATION FOR PARENTS 2020 YEAR 1

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome your child into Year 1 and to inform you of some of the curriculum issues, procedures and other items of interest which are relevant this year.

Class 3

Teacher Mrs Price
Learning Support Assistant Mrs Sadler & Mrs Bull

Class 4

Teacher Mrs Milne
Learning Support Assistant Mrs Dolby

School Uniform

Please ensure that every item of clothing, (including hats, gloves, scarves, coats and PE kit) 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 at 9 o'clock, 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

Magnificent Materials

Summer Term

Valued Victorians

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

Mathematics

Children are taught mathematics in differentiated groups in their own class, where appropriate. The mathematics curriculum covers the following units: Number, Measurement, Geometry and Statistics. Wherever possible we try to relate mathematics to real life situations and encourage problem solving at every opportunity.

English

We teach English skills through Read, Write, Inc., a systematic, multi-sensory, phonic based approach to learning. It aims to stimulate and challenge children's thinking and create enthusiastic, life-long readers and writers. Children are ability grouped and have three, sessions per week. There is also a lesson specifically aimed at the skills of spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPAG) and a Friday lesson focusing on writing, where children are encouraged to apply the skills they have learned.

Reading

Children are taught to read through RWI 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. **However, it is vital that you listen to your child read at home daily.** Oxford Reading Tree books will be sent home along with a home/school reading record. The ORT books will be changed once a week and if your child has successfully read them, please supplement this 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.

Please note, due to the current Covid-19 situation, all books that are sent home with you child will have been quarantined for at least 72 hours before being issued.

Oxford Reading Buddy

This is a digital reading programme that is designed to support children's reading development at home as well as at school. Your child should already have a unique sign in card, to enable them to access the programme, and will be able to collect 'badges' as a reward for their progress.

Library books

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

***Please see note above.**

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 are sure you will understand that we do not wish any child to suffer any injuries and will support us in our decision to enforce the **NO JEWELLERY** rule.

PE

Children participate in physical activities daily and have 2 timetabled sessions of PE each week (Monday and Thursday). Guidance has directed us to teach PE lessons outdoors, where possible. To help prevent any confusion with clothes being swapped as the children get changed, on the days your child has PE, we would like them to **come to school** in something suitable for outdoor activities. E.g. Jogging bottoms, leggings, t-shirt, fleece and trainers. We would like to maintain high standards regarding uniform, so school colours are preferable, **if you can please**. They will still require a **named** PE kit to remain in school in a clearly marked PE bag, that can be used when it is not appropriate to be outside. Children will bring their kit home each half term to be washed. Please check all items of clothing fit and names are still visible after washing. 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 which can be purchased from the school office. 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.**

Home Learning

Your child will usually be given an activity to complete at home on Friday each week. This will be either online learning or an activity to complete on paper (alternate weeks). We ask that the home learning folder is returned by the following **Friday**. The home learning activities will focus on Mathematics, English, Topic work or Science. We respectfully request that you do not complete the activity for your child, but support them as required. Please make a note on the work to give the class teacher an idea of the amount of support given. Please encourage your child to complete the task to the best of their ability and return the work in the folder provided.

The children will also be given spellings to learn on a Monday, ready for a weekly spelling check on Friday. Please encourage your child to use the look, cover, write check method and practise these daily.

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** so as to avoid spillage onto the children's work. Water bottles are available from the school office. It is the school's policy that the bottles contain only **plain, unflavoured 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 started to settle into Year 1 with the many changes we have all had to make. 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.