

Welcome to Year 1

Introduction to Year 1

Children in year 1 are aged between 5 and 6 years old. They follow the Key Stage 1 National Curriculum; a copy is available on the website to see what we need to cover throughout the year. The curriculum builds upon the children's learning and experiences in Reception. Year 1 is split into four classes: Chaffinch, Crows, Swans and Wrens. The school days starts at 8.50am and the grown-ups are welcome to stay until 9.00am for Community Time, where you can explore learning with your child.

Transition

The children will have opportunities to meet their Year 1 teachers before they begin Year 1 in September. These short sessions allow the children and teachers to start to build relationships as a whole class group and begin to explore what Year 1 will be like. At the first session the children will receive a letter from the class team explaining a little bit about them and other information ready for September.

At the beginning of term there will be a welcome meeting for the grown-ups of each of the classes. During this meeting it allows for the class team to explain about the ethos, learning, routines and expectations. The Year 1 team works closely with Reception team to talk about individual children, show samples of work and the end of year report will be passed on.

We do at times mix the children into new class groups, if we plan to do this we will inform you and the staff teams work very closely to get the best match of the children's different needs. At the end of year the children will move into Year 2 where the same process into Year 1 will occur.

Routines

When your child starts Year 1 our focus is on settling them into their new environment and building relationships. We have an introduction week for the first week where each class will establish routines, expectations and will focus primarily on building a class community. Our main focus is ensuring your child has a smooth transition from Reception to Year 1. We will still focus on making sure your child feels safe, happy and excited about learning. From 8.50am until 9.00am each classroom is open where all the children have a specific activities to do you can support your child at this time, as it helps to create a calm atmosphere for the

day ahead. At this time it allows the opportunity to speak informally with the class team to feed any information that might be needed.

Each day starts with registration at 9.00am and looking at the visual timetable to see what is happening during the day. Following this each class has a learning input on the carpet, followed by related activities some of which will be play based. During the morning session the children will have a 15 minute break outside. These take place in two groups across year 1 and year 2, either at 10.15am to 10.30am or 10.30am to 10.45am. The children will also have assembly the times of this varies depending on break timetable and on a Friday all of Key Stage 1 have a singing assembly. At lunchtime each class is allocated a Midday Supervisory Assistant (MSA) who will support the children during the lunch break which starts at 12.15pm until 1.30pm. All children will eat in the hall and Year 1 tend to go into lunch at 12.15pm then outside for play, the children can be outside for up to an hour so they do need to suitable clothing.

At the end of the day teachers will send children to their grown-ups from the classroom door. If there are any changes in regular collection routines, we ask you to write these in the classroom 'Going Home Book' or telephone the school office if there is a late change to collection. If your child is going to 'Sunflower Club' they will be collect from the classroom from one of the member of staff and a list of when the children go is given to the classes.

Learning environment

The teaching and learning is linked into the schools aims and values where it is centred on an inquiry based curriculum- information about this is on the school website. The children continue to develop their independent learning skills. At the start of the year the classroom environment is set up in a similar way to Reception with different areas (writing, creative, small world, construction, reading, role play). The children will have access to the outdoor environment this maybe as a whole class or in small groups. The children will continue to select their own reading book using 5 finger rules and our focus is on developing reading for pleasure. There are a range of books in each classroom to select from to allow the children to have a breadth of reading materials.

Learning Opportunities beyond the Classroom

In Year 1 the children will go on a school trip usually late spring term or summer term. The school often has taster session of different sports. Classes also make trips within the local community, to place such as the library, shop, park in order to offer broad experience linking

to the learning that is occurring. In Year 1 all children will have the opportunity to cook in small groups this is on rota system. The children will be offered to be a part of a garden club throughout the year to enhance our science curriculum. During the summer term the children will have the chance to become a silver level community leader; this is designed to responsible at home and in school. At this point in the year the children can apply to be a digital leader- the children will have to apply for the position and go through a skill test along with a short interview.

Parent Partnerships

We encourage parents and carers to be actively involved in their child's school life. Each week a newsletter will be sent out via email to let you know what has been happening that week along with important dates and notices. Throughout the year there will be opportunities to come in to the classroom to understand and see what learning looks like in Year 1. At the end of every half term there will be an opportunity to come and look with your child at their learning and write a comment about the learning. Each class has a 'Have you Heard...?' board where the children and grown-ups are encouraged to write a speech bubble to celebrate and share any exciting news. We welcome parent helpers in class; please talk to your child's teachers to arrange this. All parent helpers will need an up to date DSB check for our school. You will be offered two separate parents meetings with the class teacher, one in the autumn term and then a second in the spring term. In the summer term you will receive an end of year record of achievement.

Assessment

In Year 1 all children will have a phonics screening check during June and the results will be reported to you within their record of achievement in the summer term. Teachers will also make assessment on progress throughout the year.