

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to Year 1! It's lovely to see you!

Many thanks for your smiles and help to get our Year Ones into school quickly and calmly each morning. Your help and encouragement means so much and I feel that the children have benefitted.

Here are a few notes to help you understand the running of Year 1.

After school, children will exit via the rear door into the school yard. Please wave to acknowledge them so they, and I, can see you. Please telephone the office if someone other than the usual adult is collecting your child. If you are running late, the children must wait inside school until you arrive.

We have **PE on Thursdays** and on that day your child will need to come to school with PE kit. These lessons could be outside so they will need shorts, socks and PE shoes. They also need their regular school uniform t shirt and sweatshirt, jogging bottoms and plimsolls or shoes (that your child is able to put on and fasten independently). These all need to be named to help us to reduce the amount of lost property in school.

Please provide your child with a **named** water bottle so that they can access water during the school day. School water bottles can be purchased from the school office at a small cost. These will be returned home each day and it is crucial that your child has a water bottle so that they can work and play comfortably.

### **Curriculum Catch up Plan – Year One**

As you are well aware, the Year One children this year have missed a sizeable chunk of time away from their Reception class and as a result we all have some catching up to do. With this in mind, we will be delivering the Year One knowledge and skills as described in the National Curriculum but we will be also looking at and using the Objectives outlined in the EYFS documents for Spring/Summer Term where applicable. That way we will be checking and addressing any gaps or misconceptions that the children may have to enable smoother learning and transition. For individual children who have any difficulties we also will be providing them with small group interventions and individual One to One support where needed.

**Homework** will be given as follows:

**Homework Grid-** Each half term a new homework grid will be produced with a selection of tasks across the curriculum linked to current topics/themes. Your child may choose the tasks they complete. Please feel free to add drawings/photos for tasks which would prove tricky to stick into books! We will collect these completed tasks on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October and you will receive feedback by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. This is likely to be some written comments from myself, stamps or stickers in your Homework grid (usually very popular) and a certificate awarded in Class Praise Worship to celebrate your hard work.

**Maths** - Counting forwards and backwards in 1's, 10's, 2's and 5's will form part of our daily routine. Please support your child in learning these at home. Any maths homework will be sent home on paper (with answers to check) and you can keep these tasks at home

**Reading** – Please try to read daily with your child. Little and often is the best method for young children. If your child is very tired then read the story to them and discuss it. Talking about the story is as important as reading the words as we all want to develop a love for reading. I would like the children to return their reading book and reading record to school on **Thursdays** they will then be in quarantine for 72 hours. You will then receive your new book on **Monday**. If you have time over the weekend read your favourite stories at home, practise your phonics skills and or have a look online at some of the free reading games that are available. Remember that reading can be practised anywhere, reading labels in shops, poster and magazines.

### **Phonics**

In June 2021 (which seems like a very long way away but it catches up with you!) your child and all the Year One children in the country will complete a Phonics Screen. This is a short task where your child will be asked to read a list of real and pseudo (nonsense) words to check that they are able to use their phonics skills to break down and read words. Consequently, we will be sending some short lists of words and sounds for your child to rehearse with you. We will send these words on a **Thursday** and ask that they are kept at home and practised regularly.

**Additional Homework** – Additional tasks may be sent to support your child's learning. Don't worry if your child does not have the same as their peers as these will sometimes be bespoke. Spellings may be sent to help your child develop their writing.

So to recap...

- ✓ **Homework grid** sent home Friday 11th September - Returned Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October
- ✓ **Reading books** sent home **Mondays** returned **Thursdays**.
- ✓ **Phonics homework** sent on **Thursdays** and kept at home.
- ✓ **Additional homework** as and when.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who regularly support their children. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries or want to share information about your child. My email address is [r.miller100@durhamlearning.net](mailto:r.miller100@durhamlearning.net) and I will endeavour to return all emails within 24 hours.

After some very uncertain times; I'm sure (like me) we are looking forward to some more 'normal' days and familiar routines. Please know that Miss English and I will be working really hard to support your child's transition into Key Stage One and building on their progress so that they can reach their fullest potential.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mrs R. Shields and Miss H. English