



26th August 2021

Dear Year 1 parents

I trust you are all looking forward to your children returning to school. We do have an open session after school called 'Meet the teacher'. However, I thought it might be helpful for you to have an idea of how Year 1 differs from Reception.

The first change is we no longer have a communication book. As the children are a little older and more independent, they do not require constant feedback. In Reception, the children only have 2 formal lessons a day. So, you had access to Tapestry in which randomly selected activities were posted during each day. In Year 1, you may email me if your child is unwell, or had a bad night, or any important information that will affect my teaching day like a dentist appointment etc.

If I need to contact you, I will email. I am sure you have a Whats App group. If I need a message to get out to you all quickly, I will contact the class mum and use that channel of communication. I must caution you that this facility needs to be used in a completely professional manner and not be used for a gossip forum. Should you have any concerns or issues, and they will arise during the year, please contact me via email and I will address your concern.

My goal is to encourage independence in your children. However, they are young children, so they learn routines by repetition. The homework diary is structured so that each week the children do the same kind of homework on the same day. Each week I will put a copy of their spelling words for them to practise for their test on Friday. I would appreciate if you would fill in any information pertinent to your child for each week. So, any clubs they attend after school including ASC and music lessons would be helpful.

Each week the children have a show and tell session. This is split into 2 groups and recorded in their diaries. They have a library session on Wednesday and keep that book for a week.

They have PE on Monday and Thursday. I would like them to arrive in their PE kit on Monday morning. After PE they may change back into their uniform. On Thursday they just come in their uniform and change into their PE kit before the lesson. Please make sure they have their sports socks, suitable trainers and the correct attire. As I hang the bags on a

higher peg, it would be helpful to have their name written prominently on the outside of the bag for easy distribution.

The children bring a reading book home every day. Please listen to them read and sign the reading record. If it is not signed, we will not change the book. If your child is working on the early-stage readers, it is quite fun to read to a different audience from time to time so extra reads of the same book do help their flow and word recognition. We will listen to your child read from Monday to Thursday then that book comes home. On Friday we won't listen to many of the children and that book comes home as a 'blind read'. If a child is having difficulty, we focus on the one or two who require a little extra help.

The children have a folder. In the folder the children must put their homework diary and reading book. Other homework files can be placed in the book bag. Please try to encourage your children to pack their own bags properly after they have finished reading and doing their homework and have it ready, with anything else they require for the next day. I do encourage them not to leave things for the next morning, as it is extremely upsetting to forget a library book or their 'show and tell' contribution. I alternate the 'show and tell' oral with a small group play with a friend session. So please be mindful that the item must be hardy and child friendly and suitable to bring to school, so no live please!

I hope this helps you all ease into the term ahead and gives you a bird's eye view for your own organisation. I am looking forward to the year ahead and your children will have a lot of fun but will work hard and make marvellous progress.

Kind regards

Mrs. Urquhart