



Welcome to Year 1 - Owl Class!

We are very much looking forward to the year ahead. During the coming weeks we will be focussing on the transition from Reception to Year 1 with the children having many opportunities for learning through play, intergrating the Year 1 curriculum. In order to help the transition run smoothly, here are a few details which you may find useful.



Reading books

Children will have the opportunity to change their reading book daily. We would like the children to be reading daily at home and request that you write a short note in their reading journal when you have listened to them and sign it. If your child has finished a book they will need to place it in the reading book tray and providing the reading record is signed, they will be asked to change their own book during the morning. When listening to your child read, asking them questions, encouraging them to make predictions and discussing the book really helps them make progress. Re-reading a book will also help with this. We send reading books home that the children can access and read independently.

Our aim is to encourage a love of reading and books, and the books are not meant to be challenging and difficult to read. We assess the children regularly on their ability to decode words, but also other skills such as their fluency, comprehension, and prediction, as well as asking for their opinions! We change the colour of their reading book when we feel it is appropriate and we hope you will support us with this. Please bear with us while we are getting to know and understand your child's range of reading skills. In the first few weeks of year 1 they are also building up *their* confidence reading to us, so it is common for there to be a difference when they read to you at home, compared to when they read with us the first few times.



Homework

Please keep an eye out for any specific homework sheets or activities we send home. These will be designed to reinforce and/or support work we are carrying out at school.

to	the
no	go
I	into

Common Exception Words

These are the words which are commonly used, but do not follow the usual spelling patterns, and therefore need to be learnt on sight (rather than through blending). Learning these words by using letter names helps remind your child that they can't be sounded out. A list of all of the Year 1 words will be put up on our Year 1 school webpage which we hope you will practice at home with the children. Each week we will focus on a selection of these words during our English lessons and these will be published on our website every week. The aim is that the children will be able to read and spell these by the end of Year 1.



Home time

We are always more than happy to speak with you at home time but please do allow us to dismiss all of the other children first. Pick up time is busy so it would be helpful in the first instance at the end of the day if you could look out for your child being dismissed and wave to us. This will help us become familiar with you and help 'match' each child to their grown up. If you would like to speak to us but are not at pick up, then please use the email address we have for the class. If we could politely request that you try to speak with us about routine daily points at the gate as much as possible, as quite often this can be a short conversation that does not require a response by email. We will try to respond to emails in a timely manner, so we ask you to please bear with us. **Child absences must be reported directly to the school office/email and not to the class email address.**



P.E.

P.E will be on Tuesdays and Fridays. Please ensure kit is in school on these days. All PE kit items should be clearly labelled with your child's name.



Library

Where possible, we will have a weekly library session on Mondays. They will be commencing very soon. Please ensure that any library books which need changing are in school on this day.



Toileting

The routines are very different to Reception, and as part of the transition phase we encourage children to visit the toilet, where possible, outside of lesson time. We remind them to go at playtime and lunchtime and where appropriate ask them to wait until a convenient point in the lesson if it is during teaching time. This is to minimise distraction of the learning taking place. Your child will never be refused to go to the toilet.



Water bottles

Please ensure your child has an 'easy access' water bottle. Some of the steel water bottles where the top is entirely removable is tricky for the children to open and can go missing! A basic plastic bottle with a top where they can pull up and down is very adequate.



A Day in the life of Year 1

Below is a typical day for the children. Play based learning permeates throughout, as well as focused group activities and whole class carpet sessions. The learning opportunities are varied and widespread, tailored to all learning styles.

8:45 - Gates open

9:00 - Registration

9:10 - Lesson 1

10:30 - Snack

10:40 - Playtime

10:55 - Lesson 2

12:00 - Lunch/playtime

1:10 - Registration

1:15 - Lesson 3

2:35 - Assembly

3:00 - Home time

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs. Taaffe and Mrs. Banks - Owl Class Teachers

Mrs. Sambucci and Mrs. Hudson - Owl Class Teaching Assistants