

Welcome to Year One



September 2025

Welcome to Year 1.

The purpose of this leaflet is to help you and your child become familiar with Year One. There are many things that are the same as Reception and a few things that are different. Your child is in a new class, with a new name.

The Year One classes are named after some of our medium size birds:

Woodpeckers with Mrs Mather and Miss Lawrence

Nightingales with Mrs Shipman (Year Group Leader)

Blackbirds with Mrs Angel and Mrs Woodhead

Your child is now in the first year of Key Stage One.

Coming in: At 8.50 class teachers will open the door to their classroom to indicate the beginning of the day. Our learning starts at 8.50 so please make sure your child is in. Our phonics lesson starts at 9am so children miss essential learning if they are just 5 minutes late. This adds up to 25 minutes each week which is a big chunk of their learning. The children should enter the classroom independently.

We encourage them to say goodbye to you in the playground, as the corridors and cloakrooms can become very congested. Please keep your child with you until the classroom door is opened. The children will hang up their coats, put their lunchbox, book folders and water bottles in the correct places. Resources will often be set up in the playground. Please ensure your child or their siblings do not play with any equipment before or after school, including the trim trail, sand pit, field or rustic house.

Curriculum: For the first term, your child will continue with child initiated learning, as they did in Reception. The teachers strive to make sure the learning is as practical as possible, both indoors and out. Most areas of the curriculum will be taught through a "Learning Journey" approach, which links the subjects through a common theme. You will receive a curriculum letter explaining the learning journey for each half term.

Water: Research has shown how important it is to drink water during the day. Please ensure your child has a named water bottle to bring into school daily. They are able to refill their bottle in each classroom.

Home Learning: You will continue to receive a "Talk to Me," sheet every Friday. The focus varies each week. Please check these sheets as we may include a request for things to be brought from home or give advance warning of special events. "Talk to me" sheets are also available to view on the school website.

Take Home Task: Each half term your child will be given a "Take Home Task." This will be related to our Learning Journey. Some of them will be short tasks and others you will have a number of weeks to complete with your child. Please come and see us if you are unsure of the task or need any resources.

Reading: In Year One the children will be taught literacy skills, including spelling, as part of our daily literacy lessons. The children will read as a class, in groups, in pairs and sometimes individually. The class teacher and other adults who work in your child's class and we may write a comment in your child's reading diary. Please let the class teacher know if you have left a message in your child's reading diary, as they may not read them daily. If you have an important message, please tell the teacher or send in a letter. **It is important that you read with your child every day for at least 10 minutes.** If you require further advice about reading with your child, then do speak with your child's teacher who will be happy to discuss this with you. Books will be changed on a Friday.

We will be following the Essential Letters and Sounds Phonics scheme and the children will read the same book over a week. The book will be linked to the sounds they are learning that week to ensure it is fully decodable. We will send this book home so that they can impress you with their reading skills. If your child is not reading fluently, encourage them to read each sentence three times. The first time will be to sound and blend the words. The next time will be to read it fluently, sounding out much less. The last read can be to add expression to it. If your child reads it fluently first time, encourage to read it once with expression. If we feel your child needs any specific support with their learning, we will contact you.

We also read a range of high quality, beautiful books to the children. Please continue to inspire your child's love of reading by sharing books that they love to hear. This may mean reading their favourite books again and again. This can be tough for you, but it is great for them because they learn the structure of stories and the characters.

PE: Children will need to come in to school dressed in their PE kit on their PE days. We follow West Sussex guidelines, which state that earrings must not be worn for PE. We therefore ask that you remove earrings on PE days. Please also ensure long hair is tied back. If they have a club after school they can come to school dressed in their PE kit.

Supply teachers: Occasionally your child's teacher may be absent due to illness or attendance on a course. We will always try and inform you of the name of the teacher covering the class by putting up a notice on the classroom door/window. PPA (Planning, Preparation and Assessment) days occur fortnightly on a Thursday so the class teachers will be:

Woodpeckers with Mrs Mather and Miss Lawrence
Blackbirds with Mrs Woodhead
Nightingales with Mrs Ward

Absence from school: Please remember to always contact the school on your child's first day of absence.

Collection at the end of the day: Please collect your child from the Year One playground. If you have more than one child to collect from different playgrounds, your child will stay with their class teacher until you are able to collect them. **If your child is being collected by someone else, please let your class teacher know in a note or email.** Please wait behind the tables in the Year One

playground, opposite your classroom and try to spread out, as it makes it much easier for the children to see you! Please do not let your children climb on the equipment after school.

Contacting your teacher: If you would like to meet the teacher at any other time, please arrange it with them by emailing the office or sending in a note. We will then contact you by telephone or at the end of the day. Please keep us informed of events that you feel might affect your child's performance or happiness at school. There are additional opportunities to discuss your child's progress in the Autumn and Spring terms at Parent Consultation Evenings. The first of these will be after half term.

Wellies: Please can each child bring a named pair of wellies to school. They will be used regularly during the winter when going on the field.

Computer Games:

Please make sure your children are playing on games that are age appropriate. There are age limits on games and apps such as TikTok to protect your children.

Finally.... the Year One team are really looking forward to working with you and your child and we sincerely hope it will be an enjoyable year. We are always trying to improve our provision and welcome your comments. By giving the children a balance of fun, practical and formal learning opportunities, we aim to give your child an exciting year of learning. If you have any special skills that you would like to share with the children, please contact your child's teacher.

Thank you for your support.
The Year One Team

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