**Welcome to Year 1**

**September 2020**

Hello everyone! I hope you are all well. We are very excited to start Year 1 and I am looking forward to getting some safe, happy normality back!

I, Miss Jackson will be your class teacher and Mrs Zaidi will be your teaching assistant, and already, we have lots of exciting things planned for the year ahead.

I know recently it has been a little strange, but I don’t want anybody to worry about the children’s learning or what they may have missed out on. Our main aim, in the first instance, will be to make sure all the children feel safe and happy in school and nurture any worries they may have, as well as enhancing their excitement to return to school.

Here are a few little pointers as we enter Year 1:

**Classroom**

The Year 1 classroom is located on the KS1 side of the school. Our Year 1 classroom will be made to have all appropriate Year 1 learning aids, new fresh displays, and an appropriate seating plan.

I am very eager to get our classroom ready for your children to come and enjoy it!

**The School Day**

Children will be in a bubble with their class. This means their start times are slightly different, **Year 1 will start school at 9:10am and finish at 2.50pm**.

Provisionally can we ask that upon arrival the Year 1 children wait by the side gate-which leads on to the playground. Mrs Zaidi and I will then walk with them around school to the cloak room and lead the children in to their classroom. This will stop the children mixing with any other year groups as they arrive in school. The children will leave school this way also.

**Home time**

If different from normal, please make school aware of who will be collecting your child at the end of the day. We may have to question who is picking up your child if we don’t recognise them or haven’t been made aware of a change in plan, please note we are only doing this to keep your children safe and ensure they are going home with the correct adult.

**P.E**

P.E lessons take place throughout the year but the days of these lessons changes half termly. Sometimes we have P.E specialist coaches who come to teach e.g. football skills, children need to have P.E. kits in school every day.

Please ensure that your child has the correct kit.

Pumps,

White T-shirt

Blue shorts.

As outdoor P.E. is part of the curriculum it would be a good idea for the children to have jogging pants/leggings and a sweatshirt (blue or black) for the colder weather.

Children will be asked to remove all jewellery for PE activities, so may we would prefer if these were left at home.

**Homework**

Homework will initially focus on 2 main areas:

Reading – a couple of pages daily, with an adult, will be extremely beneficial to your child’s learning.

Math’s - lots of counting and times tables (this half term we will focus on 10s)

I feel if the children concentrate their efforts on these things it will be the most beneficial to their learning in school. For now we will be setting no other homework to allow a drive and focus on these things. However, due to the success of Seesaw through Lockdown, some homework may be incorporated in that. Further information regarding Seesaw QR codes will be sent out in September.

**Spellings and Phonics**

Children will have a spelling list to learn each week for a spelling test on Friday. The focus will be on children achieving ‘personal best’ scores each week. The spellings given will be from the Year 1 spelling list, as well as words with sounds that they will be covering in their phonics sessions.

**Uniform**

Please make sure **ALL** items of clothing, including P.E kits, are **clearly labelled** with your child’s name. They will be encouraged to take responsibility for their uniform, jumpers and water bottles.

**Water Bottles**

Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school each day, filled up, with their names clearly labelled on them. They will bring them home each day. Please may we ask children only have water in their bottles as they are not allowed anything else in class.

**Birthdays**

We love birthdays in Year 1! If you would like to bring in sweets for other children, please may I remind you, that the children cannot bring in anything that may contain nuts and we are not allowed to give out lollipops so little bags of sweets are best.

**Meet the teacher**

Unfortunately we won’t be able to host a meet the teacher this year, but please look out on the website for a little introductory video from myself and Mrs Zaidi!

If you have any concerns regarding school please do not hesitate to get in touch. In September, please pass on any messages in the morning or come to the office to make an appointment and we will speak to you as soon as we can.

We hope that the children have a wonderful time in Year 1 and I will do all I can to ensure they get the year they deserve after being away for so long.

Thank you in advance for your continued support, here’s to a fantastic year!

Miss Jackson & Mrs Zaidi