



Welcome To Year 1

Your go-to guide to start the year!



Dear parents / guardians,

I hope that as you read this letter, your child has had a great first day in Holly Class and feels at ease. Even though half of the class has an older sibling that I've already taught in Year 1 (yes, I've counted!) things at the start of this year are a bit different to normal so I hope this guide is helpful for all of you.

The main thing that the children have noticed is that they now sit at a table facing forwards in rows, as per the government's guidelines, rather than on the carpet together or in table groups. We have a special, white bin for tissues and wipes when your child needs to, 'catch it, bin it kill it' after a sneeze, runny nose or cough. We have vast amounts of tissues, soap, sanitiser and wipes throughout the school and the children will be washing their hands regularly each day.

I would normally spend time in the, 'Meet The Teacher' session (which we can't have yet) telling you about exiting trips, visits and out of school experiences but due to the situation at the moment, these are all still in doubt. I have moved them to later in the school year to give us the best possible chance. The good news is that our exciting curriculum is still absolutely safe to deliver and I am really looking forward to this half term with lots to learn, see and do.

Naturally, things work at their best when we support each other and in these uncertain times this is especially so. I expect the children to make massive amounts of progress this year but we will start off gently! We have systems in place for success at school but if you're struggling at home or need help, advice or just my opinion then please just ask; I'm on the end of a phone and you can catch me before or after school too if you need to. Normally Year 1, 'feels' very different to reception but this year this is amplified even more so if you think you have a silly question, it isn't and please fire away.

Overleaf you will find a quick answer section for many start-of-year questions:

Tell me about P.E. kit!	The same as last year; plain green t-shirt, black shorts, trainers and/or sandshoes. Optional joggers, hoodies etc. for cold days are fine. P.E. kit bag stays in school until half term. If your child used a white t- shirt last year then that's still fine. Jewellery is not allowed in school. Any newly pierced jewellery (e.g. from summer holidays) that can't yet be removed will be taped over. Shoulder length hair or longer should be tied back for P.E. so if that's you, work on your bobble tying!
When is their first P.E. lesson?	Tomorrow! (3 rd September) A big 'well done' if you've already brought it in but if you haven't yet got it ready then asap please. We can't pass around spare P.E. kit to those that haven't brought one these days due to the current situation. Tomorrow's lesson objective will be how to get ready all on our own in good time so get practising on those tricky buttons and clasps if it takes a long time or if your parent does it for you!! See if you can beat your best time and make it a competition against your personal best!
When are P.E. days?	This half term we will be outdoors (on the field) on <u>Tuesdays</u> and indoors on <u>Thursdays</u> but this <u>will</u> change throughout the year - I will let you know. For outdoor P.E. trainers or sandshoes are fine but if you do have trainers then they offer much better ankle support for lots of quick movement, turning and jumping.
Why isn't my child bringing reading home?	Due to the current situation with COVID-19 we aren't exchanging and handling books between school and home (YET) which includes reading and homework. Fear not - we will be doing extra reading with your child in school to counter this and I will send you information about which phonics and spelling patterns you can be working on at home as well as a weekly guide for maths too. We will re-evaluate this throughout the year and hopefully we can start sending home reading and homework at some point in Year 1.
Will my child have enough space to play at break times?	Yes! For the first half term, we share a playtime with Cherry Class who are in our school bubble for now. This means that when Holly and Cherry classes play outside, no other classes in school are sharing yard space with us giving us plenty of space even with building work going on nearby! After October half term, our bubble will only contain Holly Class which means even more space!
Which topics will my child be learning about?	Autumn A: Weather and Seasons Autumn B: Toys Spring A: Humans and Other Animals Spring B: Traditional Tales Summer A: Castles Summer B: The Caribbean
Is there anything that needs my child's name on it?	I'm so glad you asked!!!! It makes things so much easier when your child's uniform is named in-case something goes missing. Please clearly name your child's: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bag • Water bottle • School uniform - everything except socks and underwear as getting changed before and after P.E. can be difficult with unclaimed and unnamed clothes! • Full P.E. kit

Thank you so much for your support, here's to a great year!

Mr Allison

