

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

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Year 1 – Mondrian - Autumn Newsletter

8th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to Year 1! We hope you have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer. We are really excited about the year ahead and hope you are too!

Everyone is settling into Year 1 brilliantly, but if your child expresses any worries at all then please make contact with one of the Year 1 teaching team at the end of the school day, so we can make the start of Year 1 as positive as possible.

Ensuring a smooth transition from Foundation Stage to Year 1 is a priority for us and one of our aims is to build upon the independence started in Reception; your support with this would be greatly appreciated. We are looking forward to working together so your children can have an exciting and productive year.

Clothing

Please ensure your child has a coat in school every day. Even if the weather looks fine in the morning it can often change and we will be taking our learning outside even if the weather is bad!

Please can you ensure that your child's belongings are clearly labelled with their name, in particular:

1. All items of clothing (shirts, shorts, dresses, skirts, shoes, plimsolls, cardigans, PE shirts, PE shorts, hats, coats, gloves)
2. Lunchbox (where appropriate)
3. Water bottle
4. Book bag
5. Plimsolls
6. PE bag

Helping your child to understand that they are responsible for their own belongings is really useful. We always do our best to track down missing items and help the children to organise themselves, but inevitably things will go missing from time to time - clear labelling helps avoid this.

A quick check that your child has items 1-4 above by whoever picks your child up from school can be useful to help children establish a routine.

PE lessons

Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school all week. PE is timetabled for Monday and Thursday. It is helpful for children to leave their kit in school to allow us to take advantage of any unexpected PE opportunities. As the weather is unpredictable, please could you ensure that your child always has a school jumper/cardigan and some outdoor shoes/trainers with them.

Book bags and reading books

Book bags should be brought to school each day. Each child will be given a reading book and reading record. We aim to hear your child read as regularly as possible. Guided reading activities take place each day. Your child will have a set day each week on which to change their reading book. This book will be brought home for children to read to an adult - hearing a child read the same book several times is an excellent way to develop their reading confidence and fluency. Children should be reading these books easily, making very few errors. Children should be reading daily at home, so we urge you to find the time and encourage them in this important activity. Please write the title of the book and your comments in

their reading record books and return them to school **every day**. We recommend each child has their own book bag. They are available from the school office.

Reading challenge

Reading regularly has a hugely positive impact on children's academic abilities. The Reading challenge encourages regularly reading with children receiving certificates as a reward. An adult must sign the reading record in order for it to be counted towards receiving a certificate. Your support with this is appreciated.

Homework

The children will be given approximately 15 minutes of homework per week, sent home in their book bag. Homework will usually be linked to work that we are covering in class. Homework will be sent out each Thursday and must be returned the following Tuesday. Merits and house points are given out for excellent homework and super effort therefore we ask that you make sure it is completed in writing pencil and with time and care. Please feel free to add a note if you feel your child has made a special effort or has struggled with the work; it is useful for us to have feedback.

Children will also be given 'Talk' homework every two weeks on a Tuesday. This will be a short discussion question based on our topic and is a way to help children generate ideas and vocabulary ready for the Big Write session. It only needs to be a five minute talk over dinner or in the car and has proven really beneficial, having a real impact on writing.

Children will be issued new spellings on Fridays. Please support them in practising at home, a few minutes each day if possible. Spelling books need to be in school every day so that they may practise throughout the week.

Show and Tell

We have a very busy timetable so there will be limited time for Show and Tell. Children can bring in items for Show and Tell if it is part of the homework or related to topics that we are covering.

Daily Mile

We will be taking part in the daily mile. You may wish to provide your child with a pair of trainers to wear, otherwise they can run in their school shoes.

Forest School

Forest school will be fortnightly. Day to be confirmed.

Your child will need to be provided with a forest kit which should be in a named carrier bag.

Kit should include:

- Long sleeved top
- Warm jumper/jacket
- Trousers (no shorts or skirts)
- Wellies
- Waterproof coat/jacket
- Scarf, hat and gloves in cold weather.

Finally, if you have any concerns about your child's welfare or progress during the year, please do not hesitate to come and see us. We may have to make an appointment but often we can deal with matters immediately. The end of the school day is preferable to the morning as we are busy encouraging the children to settle quickly and begin our day. As we do not check book bags every day for messages, if there is anything urgent you want us to know, please give your child a note to give to us (we remind children to give us notes each day!) or use the pink slip system.

We are looking forward to the year ahead and getting to know you all.

Kind Regards

Mrs Brown, Mrs Carter, Mrs Wortley-Taylor and Miss Dewick

Overview of topics we are covering this term:

English:	labels and lists, all about me, poetry, superheroes, stories with repeating phrases / stories from other cultures, Africa, instructions.
Maths:	Number: Place value – count, read and write numbers to 10, counting forwards and backwards, 1 more/1 less to 10. Addition & Subtraction: represent and use number bonds and related subtraction facts to 10, read, write and interpret mathematical statements involving + - = signs, solving one step addition and subtracting problems. / Geometry: 2D and 3D shapes, Number: Place value – count, read and write numbers to 20, counting forwards and backwards to 20, 1 more/1 less to 20.
Science:	observe changes of day and season, our bodies and animals / animals and their care
History:	toys from the past.
Geography:	our local area.
RE:	Christianity/Islam
Music:	exploring sounds.
PE:	games, gymnastics / games, dance.
PSHE:	new beginnings / making friends and falling out.
Computing:	using different tools to create, edit and save pictures /and settings.
Art and Design	use a range of materials and techniques /levers.

Items before ‘/’ indicate that the topic will be covered in the first half term.

Items after ‘/’ indicate that the topic will be covered in the second half term.