



Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Welcome back! It has definitely been a 'different' start to the year but we are absolutely delighted to have the children back and the whole school full again. As we come to the end of the first two weeks of the Autumn term and the children are settling in very well to life in Year One, it is time to look ahead at what is to come for the rest of this term and on into Autumn 2. As you can imagine it is difficult in this current climate to set anything in stone but we set out with the best intentions to make this year a special and enjoyable one for your children.

I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the children and they are already beginning to make small steps of progress, which has been lovely to see. I hope this continues. Year One is an important year for many different reasons; it is the beginning of their Key Stage One journey with higher levels of independence and responsibility expected, they begin to access new subjects and they have a greater presence in the whole school community. These next steps (although for some sound daunting at first) are experiences that will always be guided and supported by an adult and the aim is always to complete them with a level of fun along the way. Our first priority will always remain to ensure that all of your children are happy and safe here and everything we do will be with the children at the centre of our focus.

Year 1 Expectations

- We expect children to arrive at school on time, ready to learn with everything needed for the day.
- We expect the children to try their best in their work and behaviour.
- We expect every child to respect the Catholic ethos of the school.
- We ask children to bring in a labelled water bottle. This **MUST** only contain water, no juice, flavouring or squash.
- We expect all children to have the **correct school uniform**, including the correct footwear, which is labelled. They are to wear their uniform properly and treat their uniform with respect.

Autumn Term Curriculum

The Autumn term curriculum looks a little different this year. We will be starting the year by assessing the children using the Early Learning Goals from Reception to check for gaps in learning before moving on to look at bridging the gap and transitioning from the EYFS curriculum to the National Curriculum for Year One. This does mean that, for some children, it may be several weeks/months before they are introduced to objectives from the KS1 National Curriculum. For this reason, it is not yet possible to give a full breakdown of the curriculum that will be taught in English and Maths, as it will very much depend upon the outcomes of our baseline assessments. For other curriculum areas, however, the table below gives a brief overview of the planned units/themes that will be covered in Year 1 this term. This is, of course, subject to change as particular aspects of the curriculum may need to be prioritised. To keep updated with our planned curriculum, please regularly check the Year 1 page on the school website.

	<u>Autumn 1</u>		<u>Autumn 2</u>	
<u>Science</u>	Everyday materials - distinguish between an object and the material from which it is made - identify and name a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water and rock		Seasonal changes unit - observe changes across the four seasons - observe and describe weather associated with the seasons and how day length varies.	
<u>RE</u>	Creation Looking at God's creation and learning to appreciate the	Family Who is part of our family, our wider school family and celebrations that	Prayer Why do we pray and how this can help us. Learn different prayers and different ways we can pray.	Advent The season of Advent and how we need to use this to help us prepare for the birth of Jesus.

	world.	we enjoy together.	
Geography	Weather and Seasons - Know and name the four seasons - Identify and describe the main characteristics of these seasons - Identify hot and cold regions of the world in relation to the equator		
PE	Monday - Basic skills Friday - Orienteering	Monday - Tag Rugby Friday - Fitness	
Art	Printing: Natural materials -Experiment with printing using natural materials: leaves, pine cones, acorns, fruit and berries. -Create rubbings of bark and other natural materials	Collage and Textiles: Seasons -Using different colour choices and techniques to create a seasonal piece of artwork.	

Homework:

At the moment we are trying to restrict the number of items that are being taken home and brought into school. Therefore, aside from reading and spellings, for the time being, no additional homework will be set. We will be continually reviewing this as we know that homework can potentially play a valuable part in our 'recovery' curriculum.

Spelling:

The children will also be expected to practise 5 spellings a week; these will go out on a Friday via the Year One Class Blog on the website and will be checked in school on a Wednesday. This is to meet guidelines that state children should be able spell a set list of words by the end of Year One (Year One Common Exception Words). The children should practise them at least three times and build up a habit of covering over them to try and spell them without looking. These will start to come home in the next week or so.

Reading:

We understand that during this difficult time reading at home may be quite tricky especially as access to the school reading scheme is not yet available for you to access at home. However, having assessed the children it is very clear that they really need to be engaged in reading every day. The children have begun phonics sessions daily and this will have huge benefits however reading is essential to putting these skills into practise. Whilst we still await guidance on sending reading books home and bringing them back in school to be changed we would encourage accessing the online site <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/> and accessing books from here to allow the children to read appropriate books for their age and phonic ability.

In school we will be hearing the children read often and they will be accessing the books from the reading scheme during these one to one reading sessions, we ask that you support this at home. This can be a mixture of them reading to you, you reading to them and sharing stories together.

Key dates for your diary:

Thursday 1st October 2020 (all day) - School photos
Friday 9th October 2020 (all day) - Brighten up for Harvest (Harvest Festival)
Tuesday 13th October 2020 (3.30- 6pm)- Open Evening (via Zoom)
Wednesday 14th October 2020 (3.30- 6pm)- Open Evening (via Zoom)
Friday 23rd October 2020- School closes for Half Term
Monday 2nd November 2020 - Back to school (Autumn 2)
Monday 2nd November 2020 (3.30 - 4.30pm)- Monster Ball
Sunday 28th November 2020- First Sunday of Advent
Monday 7th December 2020 (all day)- Nasal Flu Vaccinations
Friday 18th December 2020 - School closes for Christmas holiday
Monday 4th January 2021- Teacher Training Day
Tuesday 5th January 2021 - Back to school (Spring 1)

As an exciting year for the children begins, I am very much looking forward to working alongside you all to ensure that the children's best interests are always a priority. In October, you will all have the opportunity to book an appointment for Open Evening via Zoom as a welcome and quick check in about how your child is getting

on and I look forward to meeting you all properly then. However, should you have any questions or concerns before then, please do not hesitate to email and let me know. Year One is a transitional year for the children. They move from play based learning in Foundation Stage to the more structured approach to learning in Year 1. This is a huge change for the children bringing about many challenges and rewards. There are many demands on the children to become more independent, show skills of listening, following instructions and working independently. I will create every opportunity possible at school for the children to achieve and I am sure you will work to support me with this, to ensure the children are happy, healthy and confident individuals in the year ahead.

Kind regards,

Miss R. Corkerry
Year One Class Teacher

Mrs. N. Atwal
Year One Teaching Assistant



'Christ is our Light'