

Welcome back!

We hope that you all had a lovely Summer break. The KS1 team are looking forward to another busy but exciting term at school. There have been some changes within the KS1 staff so here is another reminder of our team:



Clockwise from top left; Mrs Gregory, Mrs Burland, Mrs Farrar, Mrs Olive, Mrs Hunton, Mrs Gath-Walker, Mrs Ryder, Mrs Taylor and Mrs Jennings.

The School Day:

A reminder that school opens at 8.50am and lessons start promptly at 9am. Please ensure that your child is on time as their early morning activities are part of the curriculum.

We ask that you **allow your child / children to enter the school building on their own.**

Your child's class teacher will meet and greet the children as they come into school as part of their transition. This is an important time for settling all children into school.

Members of the KS1 team will be available at the gates should you have any urgent messages to pass onto any members of staff. Alternatively, you could contact the school office if you would like to arrange a telephone conversation or appointment with your child's class teacher.

Reading:

Your child will be bringing their reading book and diary home this week. Please ensure that your child reads and discusses their book at least 5 times a week. This can be a school reading book but should also extend to a range of texts to read for pleasure.

It is important that any reading is recorded in their reading diary. In KS1 we know how important reading is; studies have shown that daily reading for pleasure makes a big difference to children's educational performance.



Reading Café

We have so many lovely books in school and not enough time to share them all. Our reading cafes aim to provide a welcoming and informal place to come and share reading with your child.

They are an opportunity for you to visit our school library and class reading areas to share books with your children. They could read to you or vice versa. You might find a book that you would like to borrow to read at home.

There will also be some fun craft activities and reading challenges for you to enjoy together.

It's a free café; we will provide drinks, refreshments.....AND BOOKS!!!

Younger/older brothers and sisters are also welcome.

Dates for the first reading café: Thursday 25th September at 3.15pm

Homework:

SPELLINGS

The children will have a weekly spelling test on words and rules that they have been learning and practicing daily. **Please** help your child to learn their spellings at home.

ABACUS

Children will continue to be allocated maths tasks on Abacus linked to their learning - this will help them to practice their mental arithmetic.

Please see your child's reading diary for their log in.

HOMEWORK CHALLENGES

The new challenges will be sent home this week...completing the tasks will help your child to consolidate their learning through a range of enjoyable and educational activities.

TIMES TABLE ROCKSTARS

Year 2 children will receive a Times Table Rockstars login. Children can compete against each other to earn coins while practising their times tables.

Please see your child's reading diary for their log in.

EDUCATION CITY

Your child will also receive an Education City login which is a website which provides engaging, educational resources and games for your children to access at home.

Please see your child's reading diary for their log in.

Curriculum:

This half term we will be learning about Castles and Dragons, inspired by these stories:



The themes are based around some key questions:

What was like to be live in a castle?

Would you like to have a pet Dragon?

We will also be learning about the countries that make up Great Britain and their capital cities - do all the capitals have castles?

Drawing and reading maps - including keys - is a geography focus and exploring significant historical places in our local area is our history objective.

If your child has any resources that relate to these themes and they would like to bring them into school, we would love to share them in class.

Our topic web is on the school website and includes all the information about each curriculum subject and the activities that we will cover.

Outdoor activities and PE:

Year 1 will have Forest Schools every Friday until half term. Please remember to send your child with clothing for every weather eventuality - waterproofs, layers and wellies. We will be outside in all weather.

Year 1 and 2 will have PE with Sporting Influence on a Wednesday morning in addition to another PE session during the week. This term, Mrs Rich will be teaching the children some dance moves every Tuesday afternoon.

On a Wednesday morning we will outdoors as much as possible (depending on the weather) so please make sure children have an indoor and outdoor PE kit every week with suitable supportive footwear!

Absence from school:

If your child is unable to attend school, please let us know as soon as possible. It is very important that your child's attendance does not fall below 96%. There is evidence that progress is slowed when attendance is inconsistent.

If your child is going to be absent from school for any length of time, please let school know so that their teacher can arrange to send work home.

Marvellous Me:

We love to send messages home to keep you updated about the great things your child does in school. Please make sure that you are signed up to Marvellous Me and don't forget to 'High 5' us.

The children really like to see that parents have received their Marvellous Me so that you can celebrate their achievements together. If you are struggling to access Marvellous Me, please contact the school office so that we can provide you with any support that you require.

Water Bottles:

In school, the children have access to drinking water at all times; we have cups in the classroom for children to use. However, we are also happy for the children to bring in their own water bottles from home to keep in the classroom (these can also be taken out during PE sessions). We will remind the children to bring the water bottles home to be washed out on a regular basis.

If you have any further questions, please talk to any member of staff on the playground or call to make an appointment.

The KS1 Team