



# Welcome to Year 1!

We are looking forward to working together so that we have a very exciting and productive year, helping your child to progress well. We hope that your child enjoys the new challenges of Year 1.

This year, Mrs Arthurs and Miss Bryan are teaching Year 1 children and they are supported by Mrs Smith and Mrs Moriarty.

Each term, our curriculum is organised around a big question (this term it is 'Are games consoles more fun than Grandma and Grandad's old toys?') and we send out a curriculum newsletter at the beginning of term; we hope you will find these full of lots of useful information about what we are up to.



## **Reading - Kids who read succeed!**

We strongly encourage your child to read regularly and 'Read for a Star' has proved successful with this. For your child to gain a star, please hear your child read at least 4 times a week and record (e.g. by dating and signing) each time in their learning journal. Learning journals will be checked every Thursday evening when they are kept in school overnight. We ask that all children bring their book bags in each day and we encourage children to make use of the online Active Learn resource where they can access a great range of books with interesting comprehension activities. In case you have forgotten, information on how to access this is stuck in the front of your child's learning journal. Please record any Active Learn reading in your child's learning journal too. Tips on helping your child with reading can be found in their learning journal from page 137 to 140.

## **Spellings**

Each week, the children will have a short spelling test on words with sounds they have been learning and a couple of tricky words. The spelling test words will be put in your child's learning journal. Words they should be able to spell by the end of the year can be found in their reading journal on page 156 and tricky words can be found for each phonics phase on page 148.

## **Writing**

Each Thursday, every child in school completes a piece of independent writing, known as 'The Big Write'. This helps to develop their independence and improve their writing skills. Each Wednesday evening, we will send home details of the writing task and we would appreciate it if you could support your child by talking about it with them; this will help your child gain a clearer sense of what he/she is going to write the next day. On completion of their writing, we will set one or two writing targets and record them in each child's learning journal. Please note that we use marking code symbols for our targets as they are easier for the children to understand - you'll find the key for this on page 102. To further encourage the children with their Big Write, a Golden Trophy will be awarded to the child that has made the best effort. They will have the Golden Trophy on their table and a small trophy to take home and bring back for the following week.



## **Maths**

Each week, we will set online maths homework linked to what we are covering in class on Mathletics - again, access information can be found in the front of your child's learning journal. If you have trouble accessing this resource at home, please speak to us as we can arrange for your child to attend a lunchtime homework club. Your child will also be set Learn Its for them to practise - you'll find extra information about this on page 125 of your child's learning journal. No recording is involved - your child just needs to practise recalling them mentally ready for the Learn It challenge each Friday.

## **PE**

Please make sure that your child has a fully labelled PE kit in school each day. We will send PE kits home at the end of each term to be cleaned. When the weather is fine, your child will also need a pair of trainers in school for PE.

Please do not hesitate to see your child's class teacher at the end of the day if you have any queries or concerns. You can also use ClassDojo for non-urgent messages.

We are looking forward to a great year ahead!