

Friday 11th September 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope you have had a lovely time over the summer and I am sure you are now ready to start the new school year. I am looking forward to getting to know the new Year 1 children and working together so that we have a very exciting and productive year.

Transition from Foundation Stage to Year 1

Our aim is to ensure that the children experience a smooth transition from the Foundation Stage to Key Stage One. The Year 1 curriculum builds upon and extends the experiences that children have had in Foundation Stage. Learning through play will continue to be an important part of the school day, and the children will spend part of each afternoon in the EYFS setting.

Years 2 and 3

The children will continue to receive a broad and balanced curriculum, including weekly PE, science, humanities, art and music lessons. We have reviewed our curriculum to take into consideration the learning children have missed and adjusted our plans so that it enables the children to repeat aspects they may need to, but also supports rapid progress.

Reading

Your child will be given reading books to bring home every Monday and a home learning book for you to record any comments. When you have signed the children's reading records to indicate they have finished reading the books we will change them. Children should only bring their home learning and reading book into school on Monday's.

Phonics/Spellings

Each day children will have a phonic (Year 1 and 2) or spelling lesson (Year 3) where they will learn different sounds (vowel sounds, long vowel sounds and blends) or spelling patterns. Spellings will be sent home every Friday and tested the following Friday. Children will keep a copy of the spellings in their spelling book and they can use the home learning book to practise writing them.

Homework

In addition to reading and spellings the children must also practise maths skills at least 5 times per week. More information about this can be found in your child's home learning book. If you would like to complete any extra homework there are some ideas linked to our current topic that can be found attached to the curriculum letter. This is not a requirement but an opportunity for those children who wish to do more.

General Reminders

- The children start school at 8.45am. We will start each morning with the daily mile so your child will need trainers to change into when they arrive at school.
- The children will be doing PE every **Monday** and **Thursday**. Please ensure your child comes to school in their PE kit on these days.
- **Forest school** is every **Tuesday**. Your child will need a pair of wellies that can be left at school during term time.
- Water bottles should be brought into school every day. Please make sure your child's name is written clearly on their water bottle.

I hope this overview enables us to work together to support your children in their learning this term. If you have any concerns at any time please feel free to email (lisa.fitzgerald@tonwell.herts.sch.uk) or phone me.

Kind regards
Lisa Fitzgerald

