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Dear children, parents and carers,

3.09.20

Firstly, welcome back and welcome to Year 1! After such a strange year last year I hope you had a lovely summer break and are looking forward to an exciting and hardworking year in Class 1! As the children are now in Key Stage 1 there will be new lessons and routines to get used to, building upon and extending the experiences that the children have had in Reception, on top of the extra measures we have in place to keep us all virus-safe. Continuous provision will continue to be part of the school day, but the children will gradually be eased into more formal learning as the term goes on. In class the children will be supported by me (Miss Chapman) along with Mrs. Hogan and Miss Fawcett.

### Year 1's School Day

Year 1's school day begins at 9:00am. Please arrive promptly (latecomers will not be able to be admitted until all other classes have entered school at their staggered start times) and wait on the distanced yellow shells outside the school gate. An adult will greet the children and they will walk independently to the classroom, where they will wash their hands. They will have their own basic equipment (pencils etc.) in school that will not be shared, and their own table place to use each time the whole class is seated. They will sit next to the same person on the carpet and at tables for the whole half term. Lunch time is at 11:30 and the children will eat their lunch at their table place in class. There will be regular handwashing throughout the school day – on arrival, before and after play times and lunch, before they come home, and at other changes of activities where needed. We will do lots of work on good hygiene practices in the first week, and regularly remind the children to 'catch it, bin it, kill it', keep an appropriate social distance, and avoid touching items they are not using, as well as their noses and mouths! Please talk about this at home too! The school day finishes at 3:10 for Year 1, and you should collect them from the same gate by waiting on the yellow shells again.

### Rocket Challenges

Rocket challenges are the independent continuous provision activities available for the children to choose when they are not working with an adult. These are important in the first term as the children transition from the style of learning in Reception to that of Year 1. When working on these activities they will be sharing equipment and working in different areas of the classroom. Movement will be kept to a minimum as they will choose one activity and remain working on it for one session. They will be encouraged to clean it at the end of the session. All resources will be chosen for their ability to be cleaned, and will be cleaned thoroughly by an adult at the end of each day.

As the children complete each Rocket Challenge they colour a square on their rocket. They are encouraged to focus on an activity until it is complete and to do it to a good standard independently. At the end of the week the rockets will come home so you can see which challenges your child has completed. Challenge Champions who have completed all of the challenges will receive a certificate! Please talk to your child about which challenges they did and didn't complete each week.

### Rewards

Hard work and good behaviour are of course rewarded and celebrated! This is done each day by the chance to earn dojos (merits). Just as in Reception milestones are recognised with badges in Good News assemblies (which will be held in school between classes via zoom). The badges will be given out later in the school year. At the end of each week children will be rewarded with Golden Time.

Children who struggle to choose appropriate behaviour for learning will have their behaviour discussed and a warning given. If the behaviour continues they will move their name onto the cloud to act as a reminder that their behaviour needs to change. If the behaviour continues they will move their name to the grey cloud and they will discuss their choices with me. If their name remains there at the end of the day they have not earned their Golden Time for that day and they will spend 5 minutes reflecting on the choices they made during Friday Golden Time. Children are always given the chance to change their behaviour and will move back to the sunshine and onto the rainbow during the day if they decide to make good choices.

## P.E.

The children will have PE on a Tuesday. **Children should come to school in PE kit on Tuesdays.** PE kit includes a **white t-shirt, blue or black shorts and black pumps.** This year all PE will be outside and so you may prefer **black or blue leggings or jogging bottoms.** They will be able to wear their **school jumper.** Children need their hair tied up and we would prefer the children not to wear earrings. If this is not possible you must sign a consent form accepting full responsibility for any injury that occurs (available at the office) and please ensure your child wears small studs.

## Reading

Home learning is very important and at this age learning to read is most important. To begin with children will not be able to bring home a reading book from school, but we still encourage you to share and read books together at home each night, and we are investigating options for access to online books. Children should also spend 10 minutes on **Lexia**, our online reading program, at least three times a week at home. Please see below for information on how to access this. Children will read with a member of staff in school up to 3 times a week. At least once a week they will read their reading book at school, the other two times they will read in Guided Reading using other books.

## Homework

In Year 1 it is important to allow the children to adapt to their new routine and focus on learning to read. They will not get weekly homework. Later in the year they will get weekly spellings to learn. I will send another letter about this closer to the time. When appropriate they will receive project homework for you to complete together as a family. They will have several weeks to complete this.

## Fruit

As in Reception children will receive a piece of fruit each day. This is eaten outside at morning break, and not in class as in Reception.

## Clothing

Every year children arrive in beautiful new uniform, and every year some of them have lost it within the first week! Please remember to write your child's name in **all** items of clothing. If an item does not have a name in it we may write it in. As we can never predict the Great British weather, please ensure all children have a sunhat to remain in school, as well as a waterproof coat, as they will all be outside for all breaks and lunch. School is advising that children change their clothes on returning home and come to school in clean uniform each day.

## Website

Please check the Class 1 pages of the website regularly as we often update them with photos of what the children have been up to in school. The first updates will be on the Autumn pages.

School have also made it possible for the children to access **Lexia**, a phonics program, **Education City** and **Purple Mash** at home. These fun websites help support their learning. Their login details are attached to this letter. It is really important that it is just the children that complete the activities, and not parents or older brothers and sisters, as they only enjoy and benefit from them if they are working at the correct level and doing the activities that are being reinforced in school.

Finally, I am looking forward to getting to know you all, and to a fantastic year of hard work and learning. If you have any questions or queries at all, please feel free to arrange a phone call with me after school.

Regards,

Miss Chapman