

## School Visits and Activities

During the coming year a number of visits and activities are planned. These will supplement the Year 1 curriculum. This year the children visited Southend as part of their Seaside studies. Such activities allowed the children to enjoy first hand experiences that develop their interest, enthusiasm and curiosity for subjects across the curriculum. Information regarding payment, parental support and general requirements will be sent out prior to the visit. Parental consent and payment (if required) will be requested prior to all trips.

In addition, we were fortunate this year to have in-school activities for special Curriculum Weeks. These included the Countdown Kid theatre production. Again, the children took full advantage of the opportunity to learn by participating and enjoying their learning.

## Letters forms and monies

Absence notes, permission slips and money should be placed in the box by the office. These should come in a named envelope with the purpose and amount clearly marked. All absences must be accompanied by a note, even if we have already been notified in person or by telephone. Please send absence notes in on the first day back at school. An absence form is available from the office if you prefer.

## Holiday tasks

The summer holiday should be a time of relaxation and fun! However, the Hertfordshire Library Service runs an excellent *Summer Reading Challenge* to provide children with a rewarding way to keep reading over the summer. This year's theme is *Mythical Maze* and the children can earn stickers for a certificate if they borrow and read books. The Mobile Library visits Thirlmere Drive and Grasmere Road every other Thursday from 11.50 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. There are permanent libraries at the Quadrant in Marshalswick and at The Maltings in the town centre. The children will have the opportunity to share their reading experiences and certificates in the autumn term.

Children also benefit from going shopping and helping to pay for small items and collecting the change.

In addition, children in Year 1 will be asked to send the school a postcard from their holiday. This can either be posted or brought to school in September.

## Any Questions

We look forward to working with you next year.

If you have any questions please feel free to discuss these with us.



# Welcome to Year 1

## Information for pupils and parents

## Welcome to Year 1

Year 1 is an exciting year for the children and 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 Reception. Learning through play will continue to be a part of the school day, and the children will gradually be eased into more formal learning as the year goes on so that they remain motivated, enthused and eager learners.

To encourage independence parents and carers are expected to say good-bye at the door and allow their children to enter the classroom on their own. However, I will be standing at the door and will be happy to discuss any concerns or questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to come and see me either before or after school or make an appointment if you need to.

## Responsibilities

In the classroom children will be expected to be monitors to encourage them to work together and take responsibility for the classroom and resources.

## How you can help

### Equipment they need:

Please provide your child with the following NAMED items:

- A water bottle with a sports cap
- A bag for carrying books to and from school (this can be purchased from the Office)
- A PE bag
- Spare pants and socks (just in case!)

### P.E. kit:

- School PE shirt and **black** shorts with **black** tracksuit bottoms for colder weather
- Black plimsolls for indoor games
- Trainers for outdoor games
- Micropore tape to cover stud earrings if necessary.

At no time should any earrings other than simple studs be worn in school; hooped or dangly earrings are unsafe in the school environment.

For health and safety reasons, pupils without the proper PE kit will not be allowed to participate in the PE lesson.

For your own convenience, PE kit should be brought in at the beginning of term and taken home only at half term and the end of term.

## Supporting your child's learning at home

### Every day:

Please listen to your child read and make a short entry in the reading record book so that books can be changed.

Help them prepare for the following day:

- reading book
- reading record book
- any letters
- home/school notebook

Check their bag for letters and their reading record books or home/school notebook for any messages.

Get them to school by 8.50am.

### Every week:

Ensure they have done their homework. In Year 1 the homework will sometimes give the children an opportunity to build prior knowledge of a topic or may consolidate learning that has taken place in the classroom. Encourage them to discuss their activities at school.

Homework will be handed out on a Tuesday and must be handed back in on the following Monday. Spellings will be handed out on a Thursday to be tested on the following Thursday.