Year One Newsletter - Term 1

Dear Families,

Welcome back and welcome to Year 1! We hope you have had a fantastic summer break. We are very excited to welcome your children to Donaldson Class with Mrs Barton and Miss Muir and Bright Class with Mrs Briscoe and Mrs Dredge. Our teaching assistants this year are Miss Wootton, Mrs Golding and Miss Loakes. This year children will have the opportunity to engage in independent learning tasks in Year 1. This means that the children will be able to independently access resources, learning challenges and different areas of the classroom, as well as having focused group work and adult directed taught sessions.

We cannot wait to start learning about our topic for this first half term – "How am I making history?" Children will be able to create a personal timeline, which develops an understanding of personal chronology. We will learn about how we can find out about the past from photographs and from talking to people who were there. We will discuss different events and how these are celebrated. We expect that they will be coming home with lots of questions about how things have changed over time! Children will also be learning about the past and present and understand that during someone's lifetime, some things will change and some things will stay the same.

All of our school classes are named after a children's author. Over the next few weeks, the children will be learning about Julia Donaldson and Rachel Bright.

If you have any questions, please feel free to talk to any one of us or send us a message via Class Dojo. Please be mindful that teachers will only respond to Class Dojo within working hours. We thank you for your understanding.

Mrs Barton, Miss Muir, Mrs Briscoe & Mrs Dredge

PE

Year 1 PE day is Tuesday. Please ensure that your child comes to school in their named PE kit on that day. No jewellery should be worn for PE – including earrings, necklaces and chains.

Reading

Please ensure that your child's reading book and planner are in school every day. Reading books will be assigned over the next week.

Water

It is crucial that every child arrives at school with fresh water in a named/labelled bottle. Please do not put water bottles inside book bags to protect our books.

Snack

As part of our school policy only fruit is allowed for snack time. School will provide this each day. You are also welcome to provide your child with fruit from home if you wish.

Bags

Children should use a flat book bag for their belongings. We do not have space for rucksacks and thank you for your support.

ClassDojo

We will use ClassDojo to communicate with you and to share the children's learning – we look forward to sharing this journey with you!

Autumn term 1: Thursday 3rd September 2026 – Thursday 22nd October 2026

English

We will continue to use **Drawing Club** to deliver our English learning. This half term, children will develop their sentence writing skills, including using **capital letters, finger spaces and full stops**. They will also learn to use capital letters for names and the personal pronoun 'I'.

Phonics is taught daily, with additional catch-up sessions throughout the week. Please continue to listen to your child read regularly at home.

Our class novel this half term is **The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark**.

Maths

This term, we will be looking at numbers and place value within 10. It is crucial to develop a sound understanding of number facts within 10, as this will form the basis for all other learning in number. In arithmetic practise, we will recall addition and subtraction facts, recording our work in number sentences. You can support your child's learning of Maths at home by accessing Numbots regularly. Numbots certificates will be shared and celebrated in assemblies.

Science

This term, we will be learning about **animals and seasonal changes**. Children will identify, name and compare different animals, including mammals, birds, fish, reptiles and amphibians. They will learn about **carnivores, herbivores and omnivores**, while developing their observation and grouping skills.

We will also explore **seasonal changes**, observing how the weather, plants and animals change throughout the year.

Physical Education

Our P.E day is Tuesday. On Tuesdays, the children should come to school in the correct PE kit - plain white t shirt, green or black shorts/leggings or joggers and trainers. **Please ensure that children are not wearing football kits as PE kit.**

Our P.E unit this half term is orienteering. We will be focusing on following simple maps, hunting for clues, and working together to find their way around the school site.

History

As part of our history topic, children will be learning about similarities and differences between the past and their own lives. They will also be looking at timelines and having a go at sequencing events on a simple timeline. Children will look at events during the year and how these are celebrated in different ways.

DT

This term, children will explore **sliders and moving mechanisms**. They will identify different types of sliders and predict the movement they create. Children will design, make and clearly label a moving picture, ensuring it meets the design criteria. They will then **evaluate their designs**, identifying strengths and weaknesses and suggesting improvements.

Computing

In computing, children will learn about online safety and what it means to 'be safe online'. They will be introduced to their 1:1 devices and learn key skills in order to use these productively in our lessons.

Music

This term children will learn to keep a steady beat, explore different rhythms and develop their singing and listening skills. They will have lots of fun using body percussion, movement and their voices as they sing and rap along to the music.