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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Years 1 and 2!

We have had a wonderful first few days getting to know your children. They have settled in brilliantly, and we are incredibly proud of how well they have adapted to their new classes and routines. Thank you for your support in helping them make such a positive start to the school year.

Important Information

Book Bags

Book bags should be brought into school every day. Please check them each evening for letters and other important information. Unfortunately, we do not have sufficient space in our Key Stage 1 cloakrooms for backpacks, and they can also present a safety concern. We would therefore ask that children bring a book bag rather than a backpack wherever possible.

PE Days

Our PE days are currently:

- **Wednesday** - Outdoor PE kit required
- **Thursday** - Indoor PE kit required

Please ensure that:

- Long hair is tied back.
- Earrings are removed on PE days.
- Watches are removed before school if your child is unable to remove them independently.

Please note: These PE days differ from those communicated during the summer term due to a timetable change.

Homework

Each week, your child will receive a homework task in their homework folder. Some activities will consolidate learning from class, while others may introduce upcoming topics.

- Homework will be sent home on **Friday**.
- Homework should be returned by **Tuesday**.
- We will alternate between English and Maths homework each week.

Reading for Pleasure

Each week, children will choose a book from our Dot Book Library. These books are selected purely for enjoyment and to help foster a love of reading. Your child will have brought a book home this week. Please do not worry if it appears too easy or too challenging. Children may choose to read the book independently or share it with an adult at home. Reading levels will be monitored throughout the year, and their phonics reading books will always be carefully matched to each child's individual stage of development. Dot Books will be changed every Friday.

Reading Records

Please record a comment in your child's reading record whenever you hear them read at home. Reading underpins all areas of learning, and we encourage children to read for at least **five** minutes each day.

To support and motivate the children:

- Reading records will be checked every Friday.
- Children will receive 1 House Point for reading **three** times during the week.



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'Share With Me' and Phonics Reading Books

Children will also bring home either a 'Share With Me' book or a phonics reading book. These books are carefully matched to your child's phonics knowledge and should be read independently wherever possible. These books will be sent home as soon as we have completed our phonics assessments and confirmed individual reading levels.

Phonics and Oxford Owl

Our phonics programme is ELS (Essential Letters and Sounds). Oxford Owl will allow you to access books that match the sounds your child is learning in school and provides access to many of the texts we use during lessons.

TT Rock Stars and NumBots

TT Rock Stars

Children are not formally taught multiplication tables until the Spring Term of Year 2. At that point, they will begin using TT Rock Stars regularly in school. However, children are welcome to explore the app beforehand, as it automatically adjusts the level of challenge to suit them.

NumBots

NumBots is particularly appropriate for Year 1 pupils and for Year 2 children during the Autumn Term, as it helps to develop number sense and fluency.

Spellings

Weekly spellings can be found on the school website under the Spellings section at the bottom of the page. These spellings are linked to the phonics sounds and graphemes being taught each week through our ELS programme. There will be 10 spellings each week. As an additional challenge, children are encouraged to use some of their spellings correctly within a sentence.

Passwords

Your child's login details for ELS, TT Rock Stars and NumBots can be found inside the front cover of their reading record. This weekend, we encourage you to explore these websites with your child and begin establishing a routine of recording reading activities in their reading record, including books read through the ELS website.

Class Updates

We aim to add a post to the school website at least once a week so that you can see some of the exciting learning taking place in class. These updates can be found in the Class Showcase section of the website.

Our Core Values

Each half term, we focus on one of our school core values. This half term, our focus is **Thankfulness**.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. By working together, we can ensure that every child has the very best start to their school year.

Many thanks,
The KS1 Team