Welcome to Year 1

We are very excited to be back and looking ahead to some really wonderful learning.

We will be holding a welcoming coffee afternoon for you on Wednesday 19th September at 2.50pm. This is a great opportunity to meet and discuss the curriculum and ways you can help your child at home.

This week and next week we have been looking at how our brains work and what helps us learn. This half term our topic will be 'Time Travellers' (learning about time and how things change over time). More details of how curriculum subjects are covered by this theme are included on the last page.

Reading
In Year 1, reading is taught through whole class literacy sessions and phonics sessions. Children will read at least once a week with an adult in the class. We are teaching reading through the Read Write Inc. scheme. The children will be given books according to the groups they are in for phonics and these will be changed every three/five days according to their colour. There are some suggested activities that can further support your child’s reading skills. These are listed at the front of the book. It is important that this book is re-read often at home, to encourage stamina and deeper understanding.

It is so important that children are not only reading a little every day at home but are also being read to. These opportunities to hear written language are what support children in becoming competent writers, so please, please find the time to read to them.

This half term we will be focusing on three different texts during our Literacy lessons. Only One You by Linda Kranz, The Jolly Postman by Janet & Allan Ahlberg and Man on the Moon by Simon Bartram.

Maths
This half term we will focus on place value within 10 and addition and subtraction, including using the associated symbols (+ - =) We will also deepen children’s understanding through a variety of reasoning and problem solving tasks.
**PE**
Children will need shorts, T-shirt and plimsolls for PE sessions which will take place on a Thursday. If your child wears tights to school, you may wish to include a pair of socks in their PE bag. Please can you ensure that all of their clothes are labelled. This makes it much easier for the children to identify.

**Donation**
We would like to continue providing play dough and cooking opportunities so we are asking for a voluntary contribution of £2.00 to buy ingredients. These types of activities are essential for developing hand strength which in turn supports pencil grip and writing. Please bring the donation to your class teacher or teaching assistant as soon as possible.

**Homework**
We expect the children to do daily reading at home. We will be sending home their phonics reading book which will be changed every 3/5 days, as well as choosing a book of their choice from the collection at school to take home. They may change this book every week. Obviously feel free to read books from home or the library as well and log them in your child’s reading record.

In a few weeks’ time we will be sending home spellings for your child to learn as well as a Homework Menu. We will explain more about this during our coffee afternoon.

**Reminders**
Please try to arrive to school on time and say goodbye to your child at the classroom door.

Please label clothes, shoes and coats. We encourage the children to be responsible for all their belongings.

The green contact book will no longer be used. If you need to let us know a change to who will be collecting your child, or any other issues you feel we should know, please e-mail the office who will forward a message to us to contact you. Alternatively, we are available to briefly speak with you at the door in the morning.

Please don’t hesitate to speak to us if you have any questions.

Kind Regards
Information about our Topic

Time Travellers

In History, we’ll be finding out:

- How to create a timeline
- About events that are important to us
- How to use objects to find out more about an event
- About important events that happened in our local area
- How we can find out about an event by interviewing someone who was there
- How to use different sources to learn about a national event
- About events of global significance by asking and answering questions

In International, we’ll be finding out:

- About different festivals from around the world
- How we can compare different festivals from around the world