

Welcome to Year 1

Meet The Teacher 2023-2024

Year One Information



Transition

- The first half term is similar to EYFS. It is play based, with a hands on learning approach as we settle children into the school day.
- It is a gentle and gradual transition building up to a more formal structure by October half term.
- Each class has 1 class teacher and 1, sometimes 2 LSA's every morning. Each class also has an LSA 2 afternoons each week. (In addition to this Parrots also have Miss Palmer a trainee teacher working alongside the year one team)
- Doors open at 8:40 with the school day starting at 8:50 and finishing at 3:10.
- Children will have a morning break and teachers have the option to take the children outside for a break in the afternoons too.
- Lunch time is 12:00-13:00



Lessons

- In the first half term, we have a short teaching input for English and Maths. Each input will be followed by small group, adult led tasks for roughly 15/20 minutes.
- When your child is not completing a task, they will be able to go to play freely in the classroom and complete tasks (rainbow challenges) which are provided within our continuous provision. Challenges are linked to the weeks learning and cover different subjects in the curriculum. The outdoor area is also used.
- We will initially assess where the children are so we can plan our lessons accordingly. Your child's progress will be shared with you during parents evenings and in an end of year report.
- When children complete adult led tasks, this will usually be completed at a desk and sitting on a chair. We complete lots of practical activities and brain breaks so that the children are not at their desk for too long!
- Year 1 also record work in maths and writing books.



Phonics

- There is a big focus on phonics in Year One.
- During the Summer Term in June there is a government Phonics Screening check for each child. This consists of 20 real words and 20 pseudo-words. “The pseudo-words provide the purest assessment of phonic decoding because they will be new to all children, and so there will be no unintended bias based on visual memory of words or vocabulary knowledge.” (Gov.uk)
- Each day we will complete one main phonics session using The Little Wandle scheme. Phonics activities also occur throughout the day. We will introduce a new sound/sounds each day and revise the previous sounds too. You may hear the children using different mantras and terms than what they have previously used. (shuffle time, listen to me and copy me, blending and chunking etc.



Challenge and Support

- Challenges and support will be given to those who have been identified.
- Children are assessed daily and formal assessments are carried out half termly.
- Weekly graphemes, spellings and tricky words and the year one high frequency word lists can all be found on the school website. (we will provide links in the future to access the parent content on Little Wandle which give ideas to help support your child)
- Daily keep up sessions take place for children who need support to keep up and plug gaps identified in a lesson. (This is reviewed following assessments on a 3 week basis)
- Extra challenges will also be given to children who have mastered the phase 5 phonemes.
- There will be specific interventions running for children with identified needs such as difficulties blending or segmenting.

Reading

- We use Little Wandle small group reading practice in school at least twice a week. The children read a text which has been matched to their phonics according to assessments at least 2 times before being sent home as their reading book. (By this time they will be very familiar with the text. They will be able to read it themselves with fluency and expression and will have a good understanding.
- (Their reading book may seem too “easy” but we assure you they have been selected carefully and this repeated read is crucial) Feel free to extend your child by asking them to write out a sentence or point to specific words or play matching games with the words from the books. Even activities like inventing a new ending or story innovation where they can change the characters, setting, story elements to make a personalised version of the story all work well.
- **IT IS ESSENTIAL** that these books are returned to school as other children will need to use these books in the Little Wandle reading practice sessions run by the adults in school.



Focus and structure of the sessions

Children read the same book aloud in each of the sessions with growing automaticity and accuracy. The pre-read and independent reading parts of the sessions are essential in providing the repeated practice needed for children to build fluency.

Each session in this 'repeated read' model has a clear focus:

- decoding
- prosody – reading with meaning, stress and intonation
- comprehension – understanding the text.

Each of these sessions follows the same structure:

- Pre-read: Revisit and review
- Reading practice: Practise and apply
- Review: Pacy review of any misconceptions

School Library

- Library books will be changed on Mondays. These books CAN be kept at home until the Monday library session. The idea with library books is that they are texts to be shared at home. It is not the expectation that the child is able to read the book independently. The child is given time in the library to choose their own book.

English & Maths

- We use the 'Take One Book' literature based framework for teaching English. Each half term has an overarching theme based on a quality text chosen from a rigorously curated collection of fiction, non-fiction, poetry and picture books. For example this half term our theme is homes/This is me and the text is 'A House in the Woods.'

This scheme encourages children to read and write different text types such as stories, instructions, lists, letters & poems. We use a hook to engage the children and give the lessons purpose.

We use the 'White Rose' scheme for Maths and a practical approach to learning. This encourages children to use different methods for the different areas of Maths. For example, using tens frames to add amounts.

- Across all of our subjects, we encourage '**Mastery**'.

This means, we encourage our children to dive deeper into our subjects, explain their answers and apply different methods.

Children who have grasped concepts quickly are given additional challenges and opportunities to further deepen their understanding and apply their knowledge.



Foundation Subjects & Handwriting

- Foundation subjects include: P.E, History, R.E, P.S.H.E, Geography, art, D.T and computing. We will complete one foundation subject input each afternoon session and this will increase to two subjects as the year goes on.
- We are also lucky enough to have outside agencies such as the Chelmsford sports partnership come in to teach some P.E lessons like football, basketball, tennis etc. Each class also gets to attend Forest Schools for half a term. (Currently Parrots, Turtles after half term)
- There is a big focus on handwriting in Year One. We encourage children to write using a pre cursive style when they are ready in preparation for joining in year two. We also encourage children to write neatly on the line with clear ascenders/descenders and try to develop their writing stamina. Support will be given to those that need help with pencil control/grip etc.



Other bits and bobs!

Home Learning:

We have put this half terms 'Home Learning Passports on the website (we can print paper copies if required). An update will be uploaded each half term to the school website. It is not compulsory. We just want to encourage children to do some fun activities at home.

Spellings, graphemes and tricky words for the week (Linked to what they have been learning during Little Wandle phonic sessions) are also published on the website. (Spellings are not formally tested)

Snacks:

Please only provide your child with fruit or vegetables for morning snack. Afternoon snack is provided by the school.

Clubs:

We are lucky to have after school clubs such as gymnastics, yoga and football run by outside agencies but we also have staff clubs that run some lunchtimes and after school on a Thursday throughout the year.

P.E: Our P.E days are Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Earrings must be removed on these days and kits are worn to school.

Parent Helpers:

If you would be interested in helping in class, please contact the office as we would love to have you!

You're all great!

We look forward to maintaining a positive relationship with you. If you ever have any questions or need support with something, our door is always open. Please catch us before or after school or email us using the school email address. We want to work with you as a team as it is your child's well being and education that is at the heart of everything we do!

parents@writtleinfantschool.com

Thank you for attending today!



