Meet the Teacher: Year 1, September 2016

Thank you for helping your child to have such a good start in Year 1. The children seem to be settling happily and are becoming increasingly independent in their new routines.

Please would you make sure that your child has the following in school:

- PE kit – trainers, black shorts, white T shirt. After half term they may also have a plain black or navy tracksuit to wear in cold weather. PE days are Tuesdays and Thursdays. Mrs Hydes’ class has swimming on Mondays. Everything should be named – if they take it off, it should be named!
- As many of the PE bags are very similar, please would you write your child’s name on the outside.
- To go with the above, please would you continue to help your child to practise self help skills such as buttons, zips, putting clothes on, ties, etc.
- A very clearly named painting overall of some kind to protect their clothes in messy work. An old adult T shirt is perfect as the children can put them on/off easily and the longer sleeves will cover their arms too.
- Thank you for providing book bags that fit in their trays. Please would you ensure that if your child has a keyring or something similar on the outside of the bag that it is simple and not bulky to avoid valuable tray space being taken up (these items also tend to jam the trays).
- Water in a named plastic bottle. This can be refilled at school if necessary. If your child is having a packed lunch then will need a drink in their packed lunch too – that can be juice.
- Just a reminder that the school is a ‘nut-free zone’.

Uniform

- Please ensure that your child has the correct school uniform: Grey socks for boys and white socks or grey tights for girls, please. In Year 1 the children wear elasticated ties which can be obtained from the office. Please don’t send your child in a ‘real’ tie unless he/she can tie it independently.
- The only earrings that children are allowed to wear in school are plain studs, not hoops or other styles. If your child cannot remove them, they should not wear them on PE/swimming days. Teaching staff are not permitted to take them out for the children, nor are they permitted to cover the earrings with tape.
- Long hair should be tied back in school. Bobbles, ribbons and hairbands should be school colours – blue, black or white.
- No nail varnish, jewellery, tattoos, etc, please.
- As the children go out to play in light rain, please would you make sure your child has a fold up raincoat to wear when it is too mild for heavy coats.

Themes:

This term the themes are ‘Alive and Kicking’ (themselves, growing, keeping healthy, the senses and animals) followed after half term by ‘What Is It Made Of?’ (materials). No school trips this term. We are planning a trip to Barleylands for the second half of the spring term and a history day on our theme of Castles for late in the summer term.
Reading:
The Oxford Reading Tree (ORT) books will be changed regularly. Please would you record when your child reads the book at home (in their reading record book) so that we know it can be changed. However, the reading record book is not confidential: other adults help to change books and will read what is in the record books. If there is anything you need to let us know, a written note handed to one of us would be confidential and ensure that we see it straight away. During the coming term we will endeavour to train the children to change their own books!
The aim is not to race up the levels but to turn the children into confident and competent readers who enjoy and understand what they have read. Once a fortnight, your child will have time in the public library. During this time they may return, renew and/or borrow books using their library ticket which should be kept in their book bag.

Homework: (All children will receive their own homework book)
- Daily reading
- Mathletics and maths challenges
- From time to time we will be sending topic linked work home. It will clearly state when it is due back.
- A phonics or spelling activity based on the Word Workshop focus for the week. Usually this will be given out on Wednesday and should be returned by the following Monday.
- All homework will be displayed on the DB Primary Learning Platform.

The DB Primary Learning Platform
As you know, the government expects schools to give the children a broad computer experience, including social networking in its various forms. The Infant section of DB Primary enables your child to receive and send emails in a safe way and to record their activities in a blog. Your child will have been given a user name and password and this will enable him/her to access their page. It would be good if the children got into the habit of checking regularly, reading and responding to emails and writing blog entries. At first they will need some support but it is surprising how quickly they become independent. We, as class teachers, have access to each child’s page and will be monitoring regularly. There is a golden whistle button that will flag it up in our mailboxes.

Help, please!
We would really appreciate some help from parents.
- Reading revelry
- Swimming

Please speak to your child’s teacher if you can help.

We hope you find this information helpful. Please do come and speak to us if there are any problems.

Thank you

Mrs Coulson		Mrs Hydes