

Dear Y1 Parents and Carers,

What a wonderful start our amazing Y1 children have made! All the Y1 staff are very proud of them and excited for the year ahead. We are sure it will be filled with lots of learning, laughter and hope to help the children make lasting memories. Our class name this year is *The Beeches* and the staff in Y1 are Mrs Trotter, Mrs Freeman and Mrs Andrews.

Below is information which we hope will be helpful to you.

PE

Our PE days are **Tuesday** and **Wednesday**. Tuesday will be indoor PE lessons and Wednesday will be outdoor. The children will need their PE kits for these lessons. Please ensure they have a pair of trainers for their outdoor lesson and that if your child is unable to remove their own earrings, these are taken out before coming to school.

Outdoor learning

At The Ellis we love to learn outside and we are so lucky to have our KS1 area straight outside our classroom (a luxury many other KS1 classes do not have). We will be using this area and other wider school environments as much as possible. This means that your child will need appropriate footwear and coats every day. Indoor pumps will be needed in school to protect our classrooms from the inevitable mud! Thank you if you have already provided these. The wellies are kept on our Y1 trolley and the pumps will stay in school.

Reading Books

Your child will have brought home two reading books and a reading letter on Friday explaining the purpose of the different books. Please record in their reading diary when they have read to an adult or maybe an older sibling. We ask that reading diaries are in your child's book bag every day. If reading diaries are filled then we will send home a second diary free of charge, however if it is lost, we ask that a new one is bought from the office at the cost of £1. We will change Read Write Inc books on a **Monday** and the children are welcome to change their book banded books any day of the week. Children should aim to read at home at least 3 times per week and reading raffle tickets will be awarded for reading.

Spelling books

The children will be bringing home spelling books. They will have their new spelling list stuck in on a Friday and bring their book home to practise. Please support your child in learning their spellings. They will be regularly assessed in their spellings. Their spelling books need to be in school every **Friday**.

Homework

Once we have settled all the children into the new routines (we know there is a lot of changes moving into Y1) and they have been introduced to their reading books and spellings, we will send home an email informing you of the short weekly homework tasks, please check your emails regularly. All logins needed will be stuck in their reading diaries.

Show and Tell

We do love to see what our children have achieved outside school, please do send in any certificates (such as swimming, football, dancing, reading etc) as we would love to share these with the rest of the class. Whilst we love to chat to our children at playtimes and lunchtimes about things they have been doing outside school (places they have visited etc), we do not have a designated 'show and tell' slot in Y1 due to the many subjects we have to fit into our timetable. Please be reassured that we love chatting with our children at social times! Could we please remind parents not to allow their children to bring in any toys or games as we have everything they need in school and children can become very upset if they are lost or get damaged.

Book Bags

Please can children bring their book bag to school every day so that we can change reading books, check reading diaries and ensure any letters etc are put inside.

Home time Collection

Thank you so much for your patience and help at home time. We are sure you can appreciate there are a lot of new adult faces for us to learn. Whilst we are a little slower at the moment dismissing the children, we will get faster in the coming weeks. As soon as the scaffolding is removed and there is more room down the path outside Y1/Y2 classroom, we will go back to letting the children out of the cloakroom doors, but for now, we feel that in order to ease congestion and to ensure we see the children out calmly, lining up on the playground is the best option.

Please continue to make a Y1 parent line and we will work down it as quickly as possible. We have explained to the children that even if they see a grown-up they know, they must not go to them until one of the staff members has called them. Please could we ask that you do not beckon your child to you, but wait until we send them to you. If there is an adult picking up who does not regularly collect your child, please let the staff know, or if there is a last minute change, ring the office. Similarly, if you need to mention something to the staff in the morning, if you have not had chance to do so in the playground, please could you just wait a moment until we have got all the children through the cloakroom door and then the staff can give you their full attention. Safety is of course paramount and during these busy times, staff need to be watching all the children into school safely. Thank you for your help in this matter, it is greatly appreciated.

You can find The Beeches on Twitter (now known as X) @TheEllisY1. We use X/Twitter to share the learning we are doing at school, celebrate achievements and give information.

We recognise that this newsletter contains a lot of information as there are quite a few changes from EYFS to KS1. If you have any questions at all or need any clarification, please do not hesitate to ask one of the Y1 staff. We are really looking forward to getting to know both the children and their families over the coming weeks, and helping them to take their next step in their learning journey at The Ellis.

Autumn 1 learning overview

English

We will start the half term by reading a fun book called *'The Naughty Bus'*. We will focus on writing basic sentences in a range of contexts including bus rules, captions, setting descriptions and retelling the story. In our Read Write Inc lessons, we will continue learning to read and write the different sounds needed to read and write simple words and sentences. We will also be learning to write our letter on special handwriting paper.

Maths

We will learn about place value and comparing and ordering numbers to 10 during the first weeks of Y1. We will then begin learning about addition and subtraction, using a range of apparatus and simple pictorial methods.

Science

Our Science learning will focus on *Our Body* this half term. We will be learning about the five senses and will practise using each sense to solve simple science investigations.

History

In History, we will be exploring the question *'How am I making history?'*

Re

In RE, we will be exploring the question *'Does God want Christians to look after the world?'*

PE

We will be focusing on gymnastics and some basic fundamentals of PE including balancing, running, changing direction, jumping, hopping and skipping.

DT

In DT, we will be investigation, designing and making cardboard windmills.

Computing

We will be developing our understanding of technology and how it can help us. We will become more familiar with the different components of a computer by developing our keyboard and mouse skills.

Music

We will be learning about pulse and rhythm, singing and playing simple rhythmic patterns and keeping in time.

PSHE

We will be thinking about friendship before moving onto Fire Safety.

Kind regards

Mrs Trotter and the Y1 Team