

Dear Y1 Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to a new academic year! All the Y1 staff are 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 Friday. For the first half of the year, our PE lessons will be indoors (due to the nature of equipment needed and activities). During the Spring Term, we will begin having one of our lessons outdoors, we will send an email nearer the time to inform you of when this will be. Please ensure your child has a PE kit in school on these days and that if your child is unable to remove their own earrings, that 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 a coat 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 bring home two reading books and a reading letter 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, then we ask that a new one is bought from the office. We will change Read Write Inc books on a **Monday** and the children will have the opportunity to change their 'recommended read library book' on a **Thursday**. 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 a spelling book. They will have their new list stuck in on a Friday and will 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**. The spellings are also on Spelling Shed each week.

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, so please check your emails regularly. The homework will be set on Seesaw on a **Friday** and the new logins are stuck in your child's reading diary.

Show and Tell

We do love to see what our children have achieved outside school, so 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 and in our Friday Gold Awards assembly. 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 however! 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 and School 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. Can we also ask that you regularly clear out your child's book bags and do not attach toys and keyrings on them as we have limited space to store them in class. The same goes for rucksacks etc. Our cloakrooms are not very big and it is hard to get coats, PE bags and other belonging on the pegs without them all dropping off onto the floor! It is really helpful if only a small bag is brought into school.

Home time Collection

Thank you 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, so whilst we are a little slower at the moment dismissing the children, we will get faster in the coming weeks. If there is an adult picking up who does not regularly collect your child, please just 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.

Water Bottles

Please can children have a named bottle in school every day filled with water. Any deviations to this must be discussed with Mrs Trotter, as per our school policy.

Naming Items

Please ensure **everything** is named. We know that things get misplaced and it is so much easier for us to reunite them with their owner if they have their name in it. We try our best to find lost things, but have much more success when they have their name in them.

We will be sharing your child's learning via ClassDojo, as was the case in FS2.

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 forwards 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. We know that the year will fly by and we look forward to many adventures along the way.

Autumn 1 learning overview

English

We will continue to follow the Read Write Inc programme which will teach the mechanics of reading and writing. The children will work in groups for 1 hour every day with their Read Write Inc leader learning their phonic sounds, decoding words, increasing fluency and learning to write simple sentences. As well as this, we will have 15 minutes story time every day led by Mrs Trotter. We will look at a different book weekly and will become immersed in the stories. This half term our books are centred on families, accepting differences and caring for our world.

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 '*Who do Christians say made the world?*'

PE

We will be focusing on gymnastics and dance. Our dances will be based around the weather and pirates and in gymnastics we will be exploring different ways of travelling and balancing.

Art

In Art, we will be learning how to use different line types and using basic shapes in drawings. We will be working with a range of materials such as pencil, chalk, felt tips and pastels.

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 finding out about the '*Zones of Regulation*' and will be thinking about which emotion fits in each zone, how it feels and strategies we can use when we are in each zone.