



*Forward Together in Learning, Effort and Behaviour*

## *Welcome to Year 1*

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to welcome you and your child to Year 1. We are taking this opportunity at the beginning of the new school year, to inform you about all aspects of school life in Year 1. We feel that if we all work together, your child will achieve the appropriate levels for their age and ability and have a positive and fulfilling experience in Year 1.

### **EXPECTATIONS**

In Year 1, we expect every child to work towards achieving their potential. Work set will be matched to suit the varying abilities within the year group. All children will be expected to present their work neatly.

#### **THE EXPECTATIONS IN YEAR 1 ARE:**

- To be respectful to both their peers and all adults they work with.
- To be independent learners.
- To be resilient when facing challenges.
- To be responsible for their learning and personal organisation.
- To use a range of presentational skills.
- To take pride in their work and always produce their best.
- To continue to build up pace of work.



## YEAR ONE STAFF

### Class Teachers

- Mrs Saunders (Mondays & Tuesdays)
- Mrs Barnes (Wednesdays - Friday)
- Miss Nixon (Friday pm - PPA cover)

### Support Staff

- Mrs Croucher (Monday - Friday am & Monday pm)
- Mrs Stewart (Tuesday - Friday pm)
- Mr Ilori PE Teacher

## SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING

As is required by law, we follow the National Curriculum which provides the children with the opportunity to fulfil their individual potentials. The children are grouped in a variety of ways such as: ability groups; mixed ability groups and friendship groups when learning. We believe that this maximises learning opportunities for all the children. In addition to daily lessons in Phonics, Literacy and Maths the children will have lessons in a variety of other subjects.

Our topics this year are:

- Autumn Term: All About Me/ Amazing Animals
- Spring Term: Our Local Area/ Castles and Knights
- Summer Term: Our Wonderful World

At How Wood we are committed to ensuring that your child enjoys lessons and is challenged appropriately. In order to provide this a typical lesson will include at least one of the following strategies:

- High order questioning e.g 'How can you explain...', 'What do you know about...?' 'Let's think about why...?'
- Open-ended activities which develop thinking skills; problem solving and investigations
- The expectation that children will explain their thinking and learning to others
- Mixed ability groupings where the children have opportunities to support and challenge each other through discussion and appropriately challenging tasks
- Differentiated activities
- Challenging children to ask questions and be active learners and thinkers
- Self-assessment

## **READING**

In order for children to become confident and fluent readers they need regular practise. We encourage you to listen to your child read each day. Reading books will be changed twice a week. Please ensure you fill in the reading record when you read with your child. If it is blank we will assume your child has not read the book and therefore it will not be changed.

## **SPELLINGS**

Spellings will be handed out on Wednesdays at the beginning of Spring Term. Children are expected to learn the words using the 'Look, Say, Cover, Write, Check' method. The words given will be closely linked to the phonics being taught that week. They may also be linked to the current topic or words that are commonly being misspelt when writing.

## **REWARDS AND MERITS**

We have a whole school approach to rewards. We will be awarding weekly certificates for good behaviour, effort and learning. The children also work towards 10 merits for a special Head Teacher's certificate. This you will know as the bronze, silver and gold awards.

## **HOMEWORK**

Homework will be set from the beginning of Spring term. It will be given out on Friday and the expectation is that it will be handed in by the following Thursday.

## **UNIFORM**

It is essential that all children come to school wearing the correct school uniform. Hair bands, hair clips and accessories must be sympathetic to our uniform colours (blue, black, grey) and long hair must be tied back for health and safety reasons. Black school shoes (or un-patterned black boots in the winter months) must be worn. Trainers or sports shoes are not part of the school uniform and therefore are not permitted.

## **PE KITS**

PE will be on a Tuesday and Friday. However, it is important that your child has their kit in school all week. The kit is as follows:

- Black shorts
- Yellow T shirt
- Plimsolls or trainers
- Dark coloured track suit bottoms (for cold weather)
- Dark coloured sweat shirt (for cold weather)

Teachers will send kits home to be washed regularly. For health and safety reasons children with earrings will be asked to remove them or tape them up. *Please remember that all pieces of uniform need to be named.*

## **EQUIPMENT**

The children will be provided with pencils, pens, rubbers etc. to use within lessons times. Therefore it is not necessary for Year 1 to bring a pencil case to school. They do still require a book bag so that we can ensure all children have letters and reading books are easily accessible.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Please ensure that your child is in the playground by 8.50am ready to line up. It is important that your child arrives on time as learning begins promptly as soon as they arrive in the classroom. If your child is absent, please inform the school on the morning of the absence. A letter must also be sent to the office. Regular absences from school can affect your child's learning since they will miss vital work that has been planned. This will then mean they will be working to 'catch up' when they return.

If for any reason your child is late in the morning please enter the school via the office so they can be marked in the register and any dinner choices can be made.

Non-attendance and punctuality is recorded and is regularly monitored by the Head Teacher and the Hertfordshire Attendance Improvement Officer.

## **PLAYTIME SNACK & LUNCH**

How Wood is a healthy eating school and we encourage children to adopt healthy lifestyles. In Year 1 children continue to be offered a piece of fruit in school at

playtime. Your child may bring in an alternative piece of fruit if you wish. If you would like your child to have milk then please see Mrs Gooch in the office.

Herts Catering, who provide our school meals, ensure that lunches are well balanced and healthy. Packed lunches that some parents provide should also be balanced and healthy. As there are a number of children across the school with nut allergies, we ask parents not to send in nut based products.

### **DATE OF CLASS ASSEMBLY**

Christmas Performance: 14<sup>th</sup> December

Enclosed with this booklet you will find a class timetable and topic web.