



Friday 27th February 2026

Dear Year 1 Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you have had a restful break. We are looking forward to continuing to build on our learning in Year 1 this term. Hopefully we will all be able to enjoy longer days and improved weather as the term progresses.

Curriculum

Our topic this half term is 'Look Outside!' and will include a lot of learning about plants and animals. We will identify parts of plants and discuss their purposes. We will compare plants, looking for similarities and differences. We will classify animals and learn about their diets. In addition, we will take part in 'Big Science' with children creating their own question which they will then endeavour to answer. The topic web for this term is attached and gives more detail about what we are covering in other subjects. You will find key vocabulary attached and we would encourage children who speak additional languages to talk about the topic and vocabulary in their home language too, as this is proven to be helpful with understanding in class.

PE and Library

Our PE day is Friday. Children will need an indoor **PE kit** in school once again (shorts/PE trousers or leggings and a plain white or blue t-shirt). This should be in school all week and may be left on their peg for the term.

Library books are due in on a Monday and should be placed in the box in the classroom. The class will then go to the library in the afternoon and choose a new book. These books can be changed at other points in the week too, if children put their book in the box in the morning and choose to visit the library at lunchtime.

Homework and Reading books

Homework will be set each week by Friday and stated on Class Dojo. This includes a specific Maths activity on Doodlemaths. There are also daily Doodlemaths challenges which children can do to consolidate their learning - a little each day really does make a difference!

On Friday children will receive one reading book (a 'Book BAG' book) linked to their Phonics lessons in school, and another reading book at their reading level to share with you. Please ensure all books are in their book bags each day - thank you! The book BAG books will be taken out each Wednesday and meticulously checked back in as they are extremely precious to us and are so specific to our chosen phonics scheme. The second book will be taken out and exchanged on a Friday.

Dates

Friday 27 th February	Pre-loved world book day Costume sale in the playground.
Wednesday 4 th March	2.30-3.00pm – Phonics talk for parents/carers led by Mrs Loveday and Mrs Arnold
Thursday 5 th March	World Book Day – children can dress up as a character from a book. Homemade, recycled or reused costumes are encouraged!
Friday 20 th March	Red Nose Day
Tuesday 24 th March	Easter service at St Andrew's Church during the school day
Wednesday 25 th and Thursday 26 th March	Parent/Carer and Class teacher meetings
Friday 27 th March	Term ends for Easter holidays at 1.30pm for Year 1 children

Communication

If you have an urgent message regarding your child, please email or call the school office. If you have a non-urgent message, please feel free to use ClassDojo. Please keep an eye on ClassDojo for any upcoming dates, events or reminders. Children should be dropped off at the gate into the Year 1 outdoor area in the morning.

Other information

This term we are joined by Miss Grace Noble, an Associate Teacher on placement as part of the OTT SCITT apprenticeship pathway into teaching. Miss Noble will be with Year 1 each day apart from Wednesdays. Some of you may recognise Miss Noble from Headington Quarry where she has been for her main placement. We look forward to having her as part of our team in Year 1 for the next 7 weeks.

How you can get involved

In Year 1 we have a junk modelling station as part of our Continuous Provision. We are always grateful for donations of 'junk' – clean cardboard, boxes, tubes, plastics – for children to reimagine into something new! (Please be mindful of what these are though- e.g. there is a certain toilet roll brand who have inappropriate language printed on their rolls and we would not wish to share this with children.)

We are always looking for scrap paper – if you have scrap paper or leftover paper or card that is blank on at least one side and could be used by children, we would be grateful for it. (Again, please be aware of appropriateness of anything printed on paper and of GDPR.)

If you read our topic web and think you have a related specific skill or knowledge-set that could enrich the curriculum for our Year 1 children then do let us know via Class Dojo and we can look into arranging a visit from you to our classroom.

Best wishes,

Mrs Loveday and Mrs Band