



Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Year 1 Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope you have had a restful break over Christmas and New Year. We are excited to have the children back in class and looking forward to our new topic!

A reminder from Mrs Holmes' weekly newsletters prior to the holiday: this term Mrs Loveday will teach the Year 1 class each Monday to Thursday and Mrs Band will teach each Friday.

### Curriculum

Please find attached a Topic Web, which outlines how we are covering the curriculum this term. Our topic is 'Castles' and will include learning about 1066, Oxford Castle, Queen Matilda, features of a castle and exploring which materials would make a good castle. We will also build our own castles, have a 'castles' dressing up day and enjoy our very popular trip to Oxford Castle! 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 helpful with understanding in class.

### PE and Library

Our PE day is Friday. Children will need to bring in their indoor **PE kit** (shorts or jogging bottoms/leggings, a plain white or blue T- shirt and perhaps a jumper if needed). This should be in school all week and may be left on their peg for the term.

**Library books** are due in each 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 if children put their book in the box in the morning and then choose to visit the library at lunchtime.

### Homework and Reading books

Homework will continue to be set each week by Friday and posted on Class Dojo. This will be the usual Maths activity on Doodle maths, one reading book linked to children's Phonics lessons in school (Book BAG book), and another reading book at their reading level (Book BAND Book) to share with you. As previously stated, our 'Book Bag Books' are extremely precious to us as without the complete sets we cannot efficiently follow our Phonics scheme, and these books are very expensive to replace. Where Book Bag Books are lost or damaged, we will ask you to be responsible for replacing them. So that we and volunteers can provide further opportunities to practise reading, please ensure all books are in book bags each day - thank you.

### Dates

Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> January	Short reports to be sent home
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 1 Castle Trip (Information sent prior to Christmas holiday)
Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	SASA film night
Thursday 5th February	Year 1 workshop with Lizzie Rowe (artist) in school time as part of Young Artist Oxford
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Safer Internet Day in school
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 1 'Castles dress up day!' (More information to follow)
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	Book Look – you are invited to look at your child's books in their classroom 8.40-9.00am.
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> February	Last day of term. Normal finish at 3.20pm.

## **Communication**

If you have an urgent message regarding your child, please phone the school office as we cannot always check our email during the school day. If you have a non-urgent message, please feel free to use ClassDojo. Please keep an eye on ClassDojo for any upcoming dates or events.

Many thanks for your continued support,  
Mrs Loveday and Mrs Band