



# Welcome to Year 1!



Dear Year 1 Parents and Carers

As your child is starting Year One, I have written you a letter which I hope will answer any questions that you may have.

## Everyday Essentials

Our Autumn Term theme is 'Animal Kingdom.' A theme web will be sent to you and will be on our class page on the website.

### How is Year 1 different to Reception?

In Reception, the children were following the Early Years Curriculum. Now they are in Year 1, they will be following the National Curriculum. We teach the subjects Maths, English, Science, History, Geography, Computing, Music, Art, DT and PSHE. In lessons, the children will be taught as a whole class and then sent to do an activity based on their learning. This will be supported or independent. There will still be continuous provisions (choosing) however, gradually over the year we will prepare them for the more structured learning of higher year groups and choosing time will reduce and then stop before Year 2.

### Homework

In Year 1, the children have English & Math homework weekly. Homework is set every Tuesday and due in the following Monday, English is set using the website Purple Mash and Maths is on Numbots. Purple Mash and Numbots logins will be sent home shortly.

The first homework will be set on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September to give the children chance to settle in.

### Reading



In addition to English and maths homework, the children are expected to read at home and record this in their yellow reading records. It does not need to be an in-depth comment- the date, book title and signature is fine! Every day is ideal, however at least 3 times a week is a minimum. Please record this in their yellow reading records, which need to be brought into school **every day**. We will total up how many times children have read and change books weekly. Certificates in assembly are rewarded when children have read 25 (bronze), 75 (silver) and 150 times (gold)! With a gold reward your child can choose a new book to read at home and then donate back to the school bus.

Children can also choose 1 book from the library to read for pleasure/ share with you. This will be changed weekly too. I will let you know which day will be book changing day soon.

**The best thing you can do to help your child is to read regularly with them.** This year we have brand new reading books. To keep these protected please keep them in the plastic wallet provided. Books and reading records will be sent home the second week back.

### **Blog/Website**

Please do check the blog regularly as it will be here we will update you on our learning and share our successes. [Class 1 Blog — Berkeley Primary School \(dns-systems.net\)](http://dns-systems.net)

### **Snack, Pencil Cases, Bags & Wellington Boots!**

Children should bring in a named water bottle. I would really appreciate it if they could have a sport style cap or a style that if accidentally knocked over the entire contents does not spill out!

Children are welcome to bring in a **healthy** snack if they wish for break time although fruit is available in Key Stage One. **Remember, no nuts please!** Children do not need pencil cases in Year 1 as we provide all the resources. Please can you try as much as possible to have a small bag for school and **no toys** are allowed in school. Show and Tell is only allowed if the children want to share an achievement, have something related to our theme or for something very important to them!

The children need named wellington boots that can stay in school please for outdoor learning. Please send them in a bag as soon as possible. We aim to have a welly walk every Thursday starting 12<sup>th</sup> September.

Please name any snack pots and lunch boxes if they are not having a school dinner.

### **PE**

We have one long PE session a week on a Friday. Please can your child/ren arrive on Fridays dressed in their PE kit.

For the first 3 weeks, we will also have swimming every Friday. (However, not the first week back.) On these Fridays, please can children bring into school their costume/ trunks, towel and flip flops/sliders. After swimming, they will need a snack and something warm to put on. Please can children bring sun cream and have had this applied before school. Please note children with long hair will need it tied back. Thank you.

### **Teaching Arrangements:**

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday: Mrs Baker

Friday: Mrs Trotman (Mrs Trotman has jury duty for the first 2 weeks of term so a cover teacher will be used on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of September.)

Our teaching partner in Year 1 will be Mrs Webb.

## **Trips**

I hope to arrange two trips or have visitors to enhance the children's learning. One will be in the Autumn Term and one in the Summer term. I envisage the total cost of these to be no more than £30 in total.

## **Garden/ Role Play/ Toys and Crafts!**

I am on a mission to improve the provision for the children in the class, especially the outdoor area. If you are having a clear out, please think of Year 1 first!

Garden things: Suitable objects are plant pots/ plants.  
Children's garden furniture, camping chairs, tents, blankets, picnic rugs, water toys, sand toys, garden tools, outdoor lights, ornaments, cushions and anything suitable for sand, water or mud.



Art things: photo frames, any craft materials, old magazines, stickers, old greeting cards....

Toys: marble run, puzzles, construction, animals...

Role Play: natural objects- conkers/pinecones, fake grass, fake plants and ivy, toys, dressing up, old costume jewellery, bags, hats, broken electrical objects like phones, hairdryers...

So much can be used to create an enabling learning environment so if in doubt send it in! Thank you!

Finally, I am always happy to chat after school or please email [admin@bps.cbac.academy](mailto:admin@bps.cbac.academy) if you feel you need a longer discussion.

Best wishes and here's to a great autumn term,

Mrs Baker