



Welcome to Year 1!



Dear Year 1 Parents and Carers

I hope you have had a wonderful summer holidays and are ready for Year 1. I hope this letter answers any questions that you may have.

Everyday Essentials

Our Autumn Term theme is 'Animal Kingdom.' A theme web is attached 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 (play to learn time) however, gradually over the year we will prepare them for the more structured learning of higher year groups and this 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. This is set electronically on the website Purple Mash. Your Purple Mash welcome letter is in this pack. Your child also has access to the maths website Numbots. This is a fun website which will help develop your child's number skills. Again, a welcome letter is attached. Purple Mash and Numbots logins are also in the front of your child's reading record.

The first homework will be set on Tuesday 9th 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. Reading records 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. Reading awards also give your child house points.

Children can also choose 1 book from the library to read for pleasure/ share with you. This will be changed weekly. Book changing happens every Wednesday so I will keep reading pockets every Wednesday evening so I can count home reads and issue house points and rewards. **The best thing you can do to help your child is to read regularly with them.** Books will be sent home on Week 2.

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, Aprons 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! Water bottles need to be plastic, not metal.

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 as soon as possible. Wellington boots are needed so the children can play on the field and not have wet shoes for the rest of the day when the weather isn't so lovely.

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

We do have art aprons however, it would cover the children's clothing better if they had an old t-shirt from a parent that they could keep in school please. Please name it, thank you.

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. 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: Miss Bruford

Our teaching partners in Year 1 will be:

Mrs Turl (in class) and Mrs Clarke (phonics support)



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 Spring 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, yoghurt pots....

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!

Rewards

Children in Year 1 are rewarded for good choices with their behaviour in a number of ways:

1. House points with a sticker- the children get to put a team counter in their tube. The top 3 children with the most house points at the end of the term are rewarded with a treat.

2. Secret Student- Each day, I pick a child's name at random from a pot. Throughout the day, we check in to see if the secret student is following the school rules. At the end of the day, if they have achieved their name is announced and they are allowed to choose a small toy and change their Marvellous Me avatar. Their name also goes in a secret student tub. At the end of the term, 2 names are pulled from the tub to go on the treat with the house point winners!
3. Certificates- children who have shown exceptional behaviour or effort are rewarded with a certificate in our end of week celebration assembly. Certificates at the end of term are rewarded to the artist of the term, sports star, drama star, heart of gold and super star. These children also get a badge that they are allowed to wear on their uniform!

Finally, I am always happy to chat after school or please email admin@bps.cbat.academy if you feel you need a longer discussion.

Best wishes and lets have a great autumn term,

Mrs Baker