



September 2023

Year 1 Parent Welcome Letter

Teaching Team

Squirrel Class	Mr Collyer and Mrs Thomas
Hedgehog Class	Mrs Gray and Mrs OiKwan
Otter Class	Miss Matheson and Mrs Vaughan

Year Leader	Miss Matheson
Additional Teaching	Mrs Ruth
Learning Support Assistants	Mrs Choi, Ms Rebecca and Ms Ellie
Inclusion Co-ordinator	Mrs Heard
Emotional Support	Mrs Thomas

WELCOME

Welcome back to school! The children have settled well and are getting used to new routines. Staff have had an extensive handover from their Reception teachers, but if there are important messages you want to pass on, please briefly let us know at drop off or contact the office to schedule a meeting with your teacher. Year 1 is a developmentally significant stage in your child's academic life and we naturally expect more from them than in Reception. Rest assured we care about the whole development and wellbeing of your child. Do speak to your teacher about any concerns.

Details of topics covered/curriculum are on our website. We have fluid groups across all subjects, often of mixed ability for science, art, humanities, RE, PE and sometimes by levels of support required for writing, reading and maths.

We continue to offer specialist teaching with Love the Ball sports coaches on Tuesdays and Sean Quinn for drumming lessons later in the year.

SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- School Council will begin this year and these children will wear green tabards. 3 children from each class in the school meet with Mrs Berry to provide a pupil voice in helping improve the school.
- In-class and Outdoor Learning Space Monitors help to keep the school tidy and organised.

HOMEWORK IN YEAR ONE

READING

Children engage in reading lessons every week, and as learning is a partnership **it is essential children read at home every day and are also read to**. Please keep reading records in Blue Bags and support your child by:

- i) helping them to decode tricky words in their reading book,
- ii) asking them questions about the text to check their understanding,
- iii) commenting on these two points in the Reading Records each week and,
- iv) exposing them to higher level texts which they cannot yet access independently, by reading to them regularly

READING BOOKS

Each week we will assign a teacher chosen ebook for your child to read (and re-read) to you. This can be accessed on your Collins Big Cat ebook library. We will share logins and assign books next week. We request that you comment and sign your child's reading record weekly after you have read with them. We will communicate any targets and areas of progress in the reading record. Please do talk to us if you have any questions or concerns about your child's reading.

In addition to the weekly ebook, your child will bring home a self-chosen reading book. These books are fully decodable and arranged by phonic phases. Please do not worry about your child's reading level. You may find that it changes from week to week depending on the area of phonics we are working on, or the specific target for your child. Remember, reading is not a race!

We continue to provide access to the Oxford Owl ebook library, which provides supplementary opportunities to read fully decodable texts, helping your child develop fundamental reading and phonic skills.

BEDTIME BOOKS

Each class has their own 'Bedtime Books' box full of quality texts- fiction, non-fiction and poetry. Your child will have the opportunity to select a book each week. Please enjoy this book together by reading to your child, taking time to talk about the book and discuss new vocabulary and ideas. These books are all picture books as research shows that children learn great reading skills such as inference, deduction, critical thinking and empathy by looking at the illustrations alongside the text. Don't worry if your child brings a particular book home more than once, as there is great value in reading and re-reading books as the words and pictures become more familiar on each reading.

Please support us in helping your child become a life-long reader by enjoying books together.

MATHLETICS

Weekly Maths homework will be assigned on Mathletics each **Friday**. These are activities designed to consolidate the learning from the week and to be achievable by all children with little or no support, other than accessing this online resource. Teachers check the completion of these challenges weekly, so please do encourage your child to have a go, and speak to your class teacher if there are any problems. We will share children's login details next week.

SPELLINGS AND HANDWRITING:

Spelling practice is incorporated into our daily Phonics sessions. More information on phonics and spelling to come at our parent meeting on Monday 25th September. Please speak to your class teacher if you would like any advice on spelling practice.

In Year 1 we build on the handwriting skills developed throughout Reception and focus on letter formation, direction and ascenders and descenders. We do not expect the children to join their letters at this stage.

Please see the Little Wandle grapheme information sheet in your child's reading record, which demonstrates the correct formation, along with a helpful mnemonic and picture to support learning.

YOUR CHILD'S LEARNING:

We encourage the children to take ownership of their learning and to check their own bags in the morning and take out anything to be handed in. There is no communication book in Year One but we have an open door policy so please speak to us at drop off/pick up or arrange a longer meeting before or after school if you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning.

MONITORING OF YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS

Children are assessed at the beginning of the year and then closely monitored throughout the year so that we can ensure that their learning is personalised.

There will be a National Phonic Screening in June. This will assess your child's ability to decode words and will be carried out by their class teacher. Your child will receive a formal report of their progress at the end of the year. More information on this check will be shared later in the year.

NAMING YOUR CHILD'S CLOTHES

Please name all items that belong to your child. This should be your child's first name and family name. Please regularly check items to make sure that they are still clearly named and show your children where on the clothing they are labelled.

Items that should be named include:

Shirts Jumpers Skirts / trousers
Coats Shoes Socks
Gloves Hats PE bag (on the outside)
PE kits (tops and shorts) Trainers
Water bottles
Lunch boxes

Please be sure to check the weather forecast each morning and if necessary send your child to school with a named coat. Children will be expected to go out in light rain.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PE lessons and Love the Ball sessions happen weekly. Our PE days for Autumn 1 are Tuesday and Thursday. Please send your child to school in their PE kit on our designated PE days. This kit should include:

White t-shirt (Named!)
Blue shorts or joggers (Named!)
Velcro trainers (Named!)

Currently, we are asking children to come in wearing their kit. Please make a note of the two days your child has PE and send them in wearing appropriate kit.

MEDICATION & SICKNESS

Medicines/inhalers, etc. must be handed to the School Office. If your child is unwell, please call the School Office and let them know that your child will be absent. If your child has been vomiting or has had diarrhoea, they should be kept off school for 48 hours from the last episode.

SCHOOL LUNCHES AND WATER BOTTLES

Children are able to have a freshly prepared hot dinner, or can bring a healthy packed lunch in a box named on the outside. We are a nut free school so please do not pack lunch items with nuts in. Each child should come to school with a freshly filled, **NAMED** water bottle.

Lastly

The staff at CHI are a teaching team but of course we are in partnership with parents/guardians at home. So,

- Make sure your child gets plenty of sleep, exercise and has a healthy diet. Lunches at school are freshly prepared each morning onsite by our chef. Help your child by checking the weekly menu and deciding what they would like before school.
- Encourage them to be independent and confident e.g. teach them to tie laces, talk about what they are learning, take them on days out.
- Please support your child at home with their reading and homework.
- Your kind support of cake sales, fairs and donations throughout the year allow us to have wonderful enrichment activities and new resources

We are so pleased to be able to invite parents back in to help in school; there are several ways you can give your time. We would love Class Reps, reading and maths support, outdoor learning, help for trips, pencil sharpening, library, cooking and sewing and swimming pool support later in the year, to name a few ideas.

DBS checks are required and forms can be collected in the office.

Finally, if you have any worries do talk to us. Please talk to your class teaching team, Miss Matheson the Year Group Lead, Mrs Jakob the Deputy Head, Mrs Berry the Head Teacher or Mrs Heard our SENCO and Inclusion Manager. If you need longer to talk please make an appointment.

Best wishes,

The Year 1 Team