



# Welcome to Year 1

## Welcome

Welcome to Year 1! We are very much looking forward to working in partnership with you this year and sharing your child's learning journey. As a team, we have been so impressed with how well the children have quickly settled in their new environments and how well they have adapted to new routines. Lunch and assemblies in the hall has been particularly exciting for the children as they did not have this opportunity last year! We hope you find this welcome meeting and handout useful. You will also find lots of useful information and resources on our year group page of the school website which will be updated half termly throughout the year.

## Partnership with Parents

The most important person in a child's life is you! Parents and carers have a fundamental role to play in their child's education and I am sure that together, as partners, we can make their Year 1 experience a huge success. Should you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning, social or emotional needs throughout the year, then please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher in the first instance. This can be arranged at drop off or collection if appropriate or alternatively you can arrange a telephone call or meeting through the school office.

## Hiltingbury Heroes - A Learner for Life

As you are aware, we encourage children to develop and apply the skills of our Hiltingbury Heroes which we believe are essential in order for them to become 'successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens'. As before, each week teachers will choose two children in each class who have been displaying the skills of one of our Hiltingbury Heroes. They will be awarded 'learner of the week' and will be given a sticker and certificate.

Alongside this, children's efforts for displaying the skills within lessons will be immediately recognised within class. Every child has a Hiltingbury Heroes passport which they will strive to complete to be awarded a Silver Hiltingbury Heroes award. The children complete their passport by demonstrating the skills of each of our Hiltingbury Heroes three times. The children really enjoy working towards achieving their Hiltingbury Hero award.

## Year 1 Curriculum and Topics

Throughout Year 1, children will experience a broad and balanced curriculum which develops the whole child and brings to life our motto of 'Learning, Caring and Achieving Together'. We see our curriculum like a tree with our curriculum drivers - 'Possibilities, Creativity, Diversity and Community' as the roots which brings the aims and values of our school to life and meets the needs of all children. You can find out more about how our curriculum is implemented on our website. The topics are engaging and opportunities have been planned throughout the year for you as parents and carers to join us. Each half term you will receive a curriculum overview which will provide you with the curriculum coverage for that half term, as well as suggestions of how you can help your child at home. Please ensure you read this carefully as key dates and events will also be shared on this overview.

## Independence

In Year 1, children are encouraged to become more independent and are given more responsibility with classroom procedures and their own personal care. For example, changing their own reading books every morning, washing their hands regularly, handing in letters, looking after their belongings and quickly settling to their morning activity. We will always help your child if they struggle with any of these aspects, however, should you be aware that your child finds any of these things difficult, please try to help them at home.

## Reading

Please try to read daily with your child and record this with an initial so we can see how they are progressing at home. Statistics have shown that if you read with your child for 10 minutes a day you will help progress their reading age by a whole year. Children should change their book banded reading book as frequently as needed. You will find that as they move through the different colours the difficulty and length of the books will increase, so your child will need to keep the book for longer.

We also recommend re-reading books a few times so that children become more fluent and develop a large repertoire of books they know. When reading at home, please ensure you are asking a range of reading comprehension questions to support the comprehension and understanding. You will find examples of reading comprehension question types in the 'reading' area of our school website.

Children will also bring home a book of their choice to read for pleasure and a library book. Please try to look after these books and ensure they are returned as we are charged from the Hampshire School's Library Service for any damaged or unreturned books.

## **Seesaw**

Seesaw is a secure online learning journal to record photos, observations and comments, in line with the Key Stage 1 curriculum, to build up a record of your child's learning across the curriculum during their time with us. This platform allows us to work with parents and carers to share information and record your child's learning in the classroom and beyond! We encourage parents to be actively involved in your child's learning and welcome home observations detailing what your child has accomplished at home.

## **Phonics**

Your child will continue to learn Phonics following the 'Letters and Sounds' programme they started in the EYFS. Please explore the reading area on the website to learn more about each of the phases and find links to videos that support your knowledge of the scheme. In June 2022, your child will complete a National Phonics Screening Test. You will find out more information about this nearer the time.

## **Home Learning**

As well as reading at home daily, your child will receive home learning regularly throughout the year. Maths home learning will be provided fortnightly on Seesaw for your child to view and complete. Phonics and spelling will be uploaded onto Seesaw weekly. This will provide details of what your child will be covering in their daily phonics sessions for that week and suggest words to focus on at home. The spellings are linked to the spelling rules and common exception words that the children must learn, to meet the expectations at the end of Year 1. Children will have a spelling test on their words of the week on a Friday. On the half termly curriculum overview, you will also receive suggestions of how you can support your child at home in all other areas of the curriculum.

## **PE**

Our PE days have now been shared and children will come to school in their PE kit. We will let you know if there are any changes to the timetable throughout the year. As the weather gets colder, please ensure that all children have a warm jacket that is suitable for physical activity.

## **Wellies**

We try to make the most of the outdoor environment as frequently as possible to support children's learning. Please ensure that your child has a pair of named wellies in school.

## **Lunches**

This year, we have returned to using the hall for lunches. The children have quickly settled into this routine and are enjoying it! The menu will be updated termly and shared with you. Please continue to discuss the lunch options with your child to ensure they choose a meal they like.

## **Book Bags**

Your child will be given letters that are not sent out electronically so please check your child's book bag regularly. Please also remind your child to hand in any letter that needs to be returned to school. Please can we remind you not to put water bottles inside book bags as any leakages can cause damage to the contents including your child's books. Thank you for your support.

**If you have any further questions then please speak to your child's class teacher. They are available daily and will be more than happy to help. Thank you for your continued support.**

