14th September 2018

Dear Parents and carers of children in Class 1,

I am delighted to be teaching your lovely children and look forward to getting to know them and you in this coming year. Please be assured that their welfare and learning will always be my priority.

Learning in Year 1 looks a little different from Reception and I hope that the transition weeks that have been planned will help your child to settle into new routines smoothly. It was good to see many of you last night, I hope the following is a useful reminder for you and information for those who were unable to attend.

As well as myself, there willbe **Mrs Ferriday (**TA Monday to Thursday) working in Class 1. In addition, Mrs Gordon will work in Class 1 on Fridays.

**Routines -** The classroom is open for children to drop off their things from 8.30. They can stay inside to read if they wish or go out to play. **Please do encourage your child to be as independent as possible.** Taking responsibility for their own possessions is important and consequently, we do not organise or check the children’s red bags etc. They are expected to empty them themselves, putting reading books, planners and notes from home in the right place etc. Also, from Monday 17th September, I’d be grateful if you could leave your child in the playground as was the practice in Year R.

**Reading** – books can be changed every day if they have been read at home. Please sign the planner to let us know that your child has indeed read! You might also like to include a comment about the lovely reading you have heard – thank you! Obviously, your child will read to adults in school frequently and so it is very important that they always have their reading book in school.

**PE –** The children will be having PE on Mondays and Thursdays. Please ensure your child’s PE kit is named and always in school so that we can take advantage of the (hopefully) ‘Indian summer’!

**Bags –** I would be grateful if your child could have **just two bags in school**, their red/blue book bag and their PE bag. We do not have space in the cloakroom to accommodate other bags especially large rucksacks. It is important that coats and bags do not fall off pegs and become a trip hazard as our cloakroom is the fire exit. Thank you.

**Enrichment –** Now that your child has entered KS1 every Thursday they will have the joy of Enrichment when they can experience the breadth of creative, sporting and outdoor learning. KS1 Enrichment will be in the afternoons until half term and thereafter in the mornings until Christmas. Please be aware that reading books cannot be changed on these days as I am not in class the whole day.

**Learning** – Our learning will be centred around books this term. We will spend much of this term exploring the themes in ‘Charlie Cook’s Favourite Book’ This will include a period of transition to help the class adjust to life in KS1 before moving onto a theme of ‘Jesus’ Christmas Party’ towards the end of term. Further details about this are attached.

**Rewards** – In Class 1 we have a culture of praise and celebration. Consequently, there are many ways that children can be rewarded. There are always team points, pebbles and stickers for wonderful behaviour and work.

**Home Learning** – There will be a piece of Home Learning sent home every Wednesday and this should be returned by the following Monday. This gives opportunity for it to be completed on a school night or over the weekend, whichever is the most convenient to you. Home Learning will be usually, though not exclusively, of a mathematical nature. The tasks are mainly open ended and should take around 15-20 minutes to complete though should your child want to continue after this time then this is perfectly acceptable too. More details about Home Learning are printed on the inside cover of the Home Learning Book for your reference.

**Spellings** – As a school we believe it is important that children spell well. To this end the children will bring home weekly spellings to learn. I’d be grateful if you could practise these with your child. They will be stuck in the planner each week.

Your partnership in the education of your child is greatly appreciated. Finally, please do not hesitate to contact me if I can help in anyway, my door is always open to parents.

With kind regards

Mrs Dorothy Robinson