



Charlton Kings Infants' School
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Welcome to Year 1!

Welcome to year 1. The contents of this letter are largely the same as those sent out at the end of last term, but there are a few amendments, so please do make sure that you are familiar with the contents. We are looking forward to a fun-filled year! During this year, children will work with increasing independence. We look forward to seeing them develop as confident and resilient learners as they make their way through this pivotal year.

The main theme this term will be '*What can you see in the dark?*' We will follow the children's interests and we are excited to work with the children to see which direction our big question will lead us towards. It could perhaps be learning about nocturnal animals, caves or space depending on the children's ideas. At all times we will thread our key learning objectives for this term through the children's interests.

We will be studying some fantastic texts in our English work which will focus on the characters' ability to overcome fears and acknowledge how everyone is different and special. Each week the children will take part in writing club which will give them the opportunity to apply their developing English skills to an independent piece of writing.

As Artists we will be learning how to sketch and as Musicians we will be performing songs to our friends using percussion instruments. As Scientists we will be naming parts of the human body and discovering what our senses do. As Computer users we will be learning to log on, store and retrieve data. As Historians we will be asking and answering questions about an artefact of the week. As Designers we will be using our own ideas to plan, adapt and evaluate large scale models in our outside area. We will certainly be very busy!! Please also find attached the year 1 curriculum map for this term which provides you with an overview of key learning objectives for all children.

Some lessons will be taught discretely such as RE and PSHE. In PSHE we will focus on establishing class rules and understanding our responsibilities. In RE we will be discussing what it means to belong to a faith community. In PE we will be developing our agility by side stepping in different directions.

Although this is the children's first year of following the National Curriculum, we are carefully considering any gaps that children may have experienced due to the Pandemic and our enforced school closure, when planning the year ahead. Our Year 1 timetable is carefully considered to ensure a balance between short whole class taught sessions (phonics and maths), small group work (English) and a play based approach to foundation subjects (choice and challenge) which sees teachers scaffolding learning through the provision of high quality teaching and learning opportunities and environments. This also allows children to apply their developing knowledge, skills and understanding within both the indoor and outdoor learning environments. Children will continue to have free flow access to the outdoor learning environment for set periods of time during the day as research demonstrates the importance of the outdoor learning environment in the learning journey for children of this age and stage of their development.

Please see below for an example of a typical day in Year 1.

Time	Activity	Explanation
8.45 – 9.15	Magic Maths	Developing fluency of number facts and place value
9.15 – 9.30	Class/Year Group Assembly	
9.30 – 10.15	Mastery Maths	Whole class lesson The lesson is structured into three parts; do it, secure it and deepen it. This allows for those children who need additional support and those who need further challenge.
10.15 - 10.30	Brain Break	Handwashing, Playtime & snack time
10.30 – 11.30	English – rotation of activities during the week	Guided writing – adult led Handwriting practice - independent Spelling & grammar revision - independent Comprehension/Individual readers – adult led Independent writing
11.30 - 12.20	Lunchtime	Handwashing and lunchtime
12.20 – 12.35	Everyone Reading In Class (ERIC)	When returning from lunch, children will be encouraged to read/share books with their peers to further develop their love of reading.
12.35 - 1.00	Phonics	Whole class taught session
1.00 - 2.10	Choice and Challenge	Developing knowledge and skills within Foundation subjects Indoor and outdoor free-flow access of learning opportunities with adults supporting learning by scaffolding, extending thinking and questioning. Rolling snack and milk
2.10– 2.20	Foundation input/ Guided comprehension	
2.20 - 2.45	Whole class story time	Handwashing before home time

Home learning

We thank you for your commitment to work in partnership with us in order to support your child's ongoing learning and development. Listed below are the ways in which we request that you continue to support your child's learning at home:

- **Daily reading:** This is essential in developing children's oracy skills and fluency. Evidence demonstrates that children who acquire rich vocabulary through listening to, responding to and reading stories develop life-long communication skills. It is therefore vital that children not only read the books provided by school, but listen and respond to texts read to them by adults on a regular basis both at home and at school. The class teacher supervises the reading books taken home, but the children will take increasing responsibility for choosing their own books from a given range. It is important to encourage children to read a wide variety of different texts including non-fiction and poetry. Books do not have to be returned daily.

Our top 10 reading tips:

- 1. Make books part of your family life – Always have books around so that you and your children are ready to read whenever there's a chance.
- 2. Join your local library – Get your child a library card. You'll find the latest videogames, blu-rays and DVDs, plus tons and tons of fantastic books. Allow them to pick their own books, encouraging their own interests.
- 3. Match their interests – Help them find the right book - it doesn't matter if it's fiction, poetry, comic books or non-fiction.
- 4. All reading is good – Don't discount non-fiction, comics, graphic novels, magazines and leaflets. Reading is reading and it is all good.
- 5. Get comfortable! – Snuggle up somewhere warm and cosy with your child, either in bed, on a beanbag or on the sofa, or make sure they have somewhere comfy when reading alone.
- 6. Ask questions – To keep them interested in the story, ask your child questions as you read such as, 'What do you think will happen next?' or 'Can you remember what had happened already?'
- 7. Look for opportunities to discuss unfamiliar vocabulary - Ask children to act out verbs in stories (crept, galloped) or research new vocabulary that you come across in non-fiction books.
- 8. Read again and again – Encourage your child to re-read favourite books and poems. Re-reading helps to build up fluency and confidence.
- 9. Bedtime stories – Regularly read with your child or children at bedtime. It's a great way to end the day and to spend valuable time with your child.

- 10. Rhyme and repetition – Books and poems which include rhyme and repetition are great for encouraging your child or children to join in and remember the words.

If your child took part in this year's reading challenge at the library<https://readingagency.org.uk/children/quick-guides/summer-reading-challenge/>, **please ensure that they bring their challenge sheets into school to share with us.**

- **Phonics revision:** The children will have a phonics folder in their book bags which will be added to each week in school. Please ensure that you re-cap the new learning with your child on a weekly basis in order to secure their understanding and use in both their reading and writing. A weekly phonics video providing an overview of phonics teaching for the previous week will also be available on the year group page of our website to support with the completion of this essential revision at home.
- **Spellings:** The children will be given a list of common exception words (tricky words) to learn to spell each term. In order for the children to spell these words consistently and independently, they need to repeat them regularly and apply them in their own writing. It is useful to print these words out and have them around your home for you to talk about and reflect upon with your child during daily activities.
- Your child will also have continued access to 'mathletics'. More information will also follow about an online membership to 'Purple Mash' during the coming weeks.

Remote Education

We are in the process of finalising our plans for our remote education offer should children be isolating for short periods of time due to Covid19. More details will follow during the next few weeks! In the meantime, class teachers will contact parents/carers directly with learning opportunities for children to complete at home if they are absent due to isolating.

Equipment in school

Our storage space is limited in Key Stage One and we therefore ask you to only bring a book bag into school, rather than large backpacks. Children must have named PE kit in school at all times, to include trainers/daps, long jogging bottoms and a jumper as we will be regularly going outside for PE lessons during the Autumn term. Please also ensure that children have a named water bottle in school at all times (we will be sending this home on a daily basis to be washed thoroughly and returned the next day). Please also continue to bring in a daily fruit or vegetable snack in a named, reusable container. Can we also remind you to ensure that your child brings in a named coat every day (the weather can often change during the day and children are encouraged to be outside regularly during the day).

Communication

- Text and email are our main form of communication with parents, please look out for updates.
- Twitter pages are currently our main form of sharing learning with parents. These twitter feeds can be found on the Year 1 page of our school website.
- The termly topic letter and curriculum map will also be published on the Y1 page of our school website
<https://www.ckis.org.uk/page/?title=Year+1&pid=253>
- Please ensure contact details are up to date at the school office in order to ensure you receive all emails and text messages.
- If you would like to contact class teachers, please email via secretary@ckis.org.uk who will forward your email to class teachers.

Attendance

School will begin for Y1 pupils at **8.45am** each morning from September. Please ensure children are lined up ready to enter the classroom just before this time. Teaching and learning begins immediately, so it is essential that children arrive at school punctually.

If you have any questions or queries please don't hesitate to contact us on secretary@ckis.org.uk

We are looking forward to an exciting year!



The Year 1 Team

Mr Owens and Mrs Fox, Miss Smart and Miss Pearce