Parents of children in Classes 1AB and 1EG 18th September 2018

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year 1! We have had a wonderful first week with the children and we are all looking forward to the coming year. It will be a new, fresh and exciting year and one that we hope your child will remember and enjoy!

**The Teaching Team:**

This year the children will be working with a number of people. Miss Greatrex and Mrs Baldwin will be leading the Year 1 team alongside our Teaching Assistants Mrs Preston, Mrs Hill and Miss Pyman. Mrs Hawkins, Mrs Smith and Mrs Stone will also be working with us.

**Important Dates:**

**Wednesday 17th October:** Phonics Masterclass for parents – 3.30 – 4.30 (more details will follow nearer the time but we do encourage as many parents as possible to attend, as vital information about a national assessment and your child’s reading development is shared)

**Wednesday 27th February:** Phonics meetings for selected parents

**Week Beginning 10th June:** National Phonics Screening

**Topics throughout this term:**

**English:**  Simple sentence writing and letter formation

**Maths:** Place value, addition and subtraction, shape and problem olving

**Science:** Animals including humans

**History:**  Famous people

**RE:** Belonging

**Geography:** Where we live

**ICT:** Word processing and mouse control

**Art:** Self portraits

**P.E.:** Outdoor games and dance

**Music:** Singing and percussion

**Supporting Your Child at Home:**

There are many ways you can support your child’s education at home.

***Daily Reading:*** Your child should be encouraged to read on a daily basis and it would be greatly appreciated if you could comment in their reading diary about how they are getting on at home. We suggest little and often to develop their decoding and fluency. Children are of course welcome to get stuck in to books that they may have at home too! Reading diaries and books will be checked daily and new books will be given when required. Books will not be sent home on a Thursday but will be sent home on a Friday ready for the weekend. Book bands will be reviewed regularly, but this requires several forms of assessment and therefore children will be moved when they have met the necessary steps to progress.

***Homework:*** Your child will receive homework on Friday, to be handed in the following Thursday. This will consist of one task in which we may ask you to discuss and record something with your child. Please encourage them to have a go at the recording themselves. There will also be a set of phonics homework and we ask that you help your child to consolidate the sounds that we have taught in school that week. After half term, we will be starting ‘Super Star Speller’ sessions in which we will ask the children to have a go at spelling words that contain the sounds we sent home.

If you have any issues with reading or homework, please come and see us. We will be happy to help!

***Independence:*** The children have already begun to remember their new routines and we are very impressed with their independence. Try to encourage your child to come in to school on their own each morning and organise themselves ready for the school day. There are plenty of adults around to help should they need it and the Year 1 area does tend to get congested if there are too many people. It is important that your child can put on and take off their jumpers and coats independently so if they are finding this tricky, please help them to practise at home. Likewise, changing for P.E is another area that we would like the children to become independent in.

**Other Details**

***Water and Fruit:*** As you are aware, the children can bring in **bottles of water** for them to drink from as they work throughout the day. Please could you ensure that it is **only water** and that the bottles are marked with your child’s name.The Government provide fresh fruit to the children every day and we ensure that the children have time to eat their fruit by having a snack break half way through the morning.Parents are asked not to provide alternative fruit snacks from home unless a specific medical reason is specified.

***Book Bags and Toys:***

Some children like to bring a backpack to school, however we would like to discourage this as the cloakroom is in constant use and space is limited. If there is a specific reason, e.g. your child needs a bag for after school, an exception can be made. We would like all children to have a book bag that they bring into school daily. It is important that you check the contents of the book bag each night as they will contain your child’s reading book and diary, letters for parents and any pictures or work that your child might want to take home. We discourage the children from bringing in toys. We have plenty of toys in Year 1 and have found that bringing toys from home often leads to upset or arguments if they get lost or broken.

***PE:*** P.E will take place on a Thursday and Friday but can we please remind you that your child’s PE kit should remain in school during term time and we will send it home during the holidays to be washed. The children are required to wear white shorts, a white t-shirt and can wear trainers or plimsolls. Please ensure all kit is named. If your child is unable to tie their own shoelaces, please provide them with Velcro shoes. Swimming kit will not be needed until the summer term and we will send out more information nearer the time. Please could you write a note to inform the teacher if your child is unable to take part in PE.

Reading diaries are read and checked daily so if you have any concerns or messages for us, this is a good means of communication. If you have any worries at all about your child, the most convenient time to discuss them is after school. We offer an open door policy and would be happy to talk about any issues, so please feel free to pop in or make an appointment.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Greatrex & Mrs Baldwin

Class 1EG Class 1AB