



Harwell

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all had a lovely summer and are looking forward to the coming year. We are so excited to welcome the children back to school to start their Year 1 journey. To start off the year we will be getting to know our new routines and expectations. This letter will give you an outline of the curriculum in this Autumn term.

Our first project is: **Ahoy Me Hearties!** Our Big Question is: **Is it wrong to steal treasure?**

In **English**, the children will focus on embedding key writing skills before the creative writing process begins in the second term. This will involve focusing on: capital and lowercase letters, verbs, suffixes -ing, finger spaces, writing sentences, personal pronouns, noun suffixes -s, prefixes un- and full stops.

The children will continue to use Read Write Inc for **Phonics**. Children will be given a reading record at the start of the term that is taken home in their book bags **every day**. Within the first weeks, we will assess the children's phonics and match them with an appropriate group. Once in a group, your child will then be given a phonics book from their phonics teacher which is their 'book bag book'. Children are also welcome to take books from our class Reading Den and the KS1 Library as long as an adult is made aware and it is brought back. We ask that you read with your child daily and record a comment in their reading record because reading at home is paramount to embedding their fluency and confidence. Reading for pleasure also improves children's wellbeing, language development and comprehension skills.

In **Maths** this term we will have a focus on numbers and place value, ensuring the children are fully confident in their basic understanding before the next steps. At Harwell, we take a mastery approach to mathematics which means we move from concrete resources to pictorial and then abstract learning. It would be great if you could practise counting forwards and backwards with your children at home, as this will consolidate the learning taking place in the classroom.

In our **PSHE** lessons we will be looking at 'Being Me in My World'. We will investigate this idea through learning about my class, my roles and responsibilities, rewards, feeling proud, consequences and our class learning charter. For more detail on the term's learning, please take a look at the medium term plan on the school website.

PE will take place on **Tuesday** afternoon. We will require your child to **come into school in their kit** on a **Tuesday** until told otherwise. In these first terms, they must have appropriate outdoor kits as we may be on the AGP for lessons.

Swimming will take place on a **Wednesday afternoon** and will start on the week beginning: Monday 11th September. The plan is for half the class to swim one week and then half the other half to swim the following week. A reminder that children should be able to change into their uniform independently - so no tights please. See the list below to see if your

child swims in Week 1 or Week 2:

Week 1 children (13.09, 27.09 and 11.10): Eli, Annie, Arthur, Levi, Kye, Elsie, Hannah, Freddie M, Corey-Jay, Lydia, Elodie, Mila, Louie, Marc, Dylan

Week 2 children (20.09, 04.10 and 18.10): Poppy, Evie, Harry, Leo, Margot, Lexie, Ellie, Finley N, Ella, Finlay R, Pixie, Charlie, Arlo, Freddie W

Some points to remember:

- Please provide a named swimming costume, towel, hat and a pair of goggles (if they want to wear them)
- No jewellery is permitted in the pool; so any earrings must be taken out / not worn that day as we cannot help with this
- If, for any reason, you wish for your child not to swim or take part in a PE lesson, please may we ask for a written note from you.
- On PE days, please make sure your child comes to school in their PE kit (black shorts/trousers, plain white t-shirt and trainers or plimsolls, all named and labelled). School jumpers and cardigans can be worn over their white t-shirts, other items of clothing, *such as hoodies*, should not be worn.
- To avoid lost kits, costumes, and hats can you please ensure all clothing is clearly labelled.
- Please also ensure they bring water to school every day in a labelled bottle

If any **parents/carers can be available on a Wednesday afternoon to volunteer** until October half term to help with swimming that would be amazing. We need volunteers who are happy to be in the pool and are happy to help with changing. Please email the office or let me know during our first week whether this is something you can commit to.

Homework in Year 1 will be different from Reception as the aim is to get them settled into the Year 1 school routine with a focus on reading as well. If you can, please practise their set sounds for 5 minutes a day. I will provide a Sound Mat within their reading record which has video links to support their understanding.

I would also greatly appreciate any recycling that you may have at home as our Workshop Area always needs resources for junk modelling (which I know the children love)! However, depending on the activity we may need your help by providing specific materials, but I will let you know when that is the case!

As we are learning about Pirates across the whole Autumn term we will have a mid-term **outcome** at the start of the next half term (**Monday 30th October 9:10 am - 9:40 am**). Our aim is for the children to have a pirate day where they dress up and share their learning they have done. You will have the opportunity to look at your child's book and talk to them about their Year 1 memories so far.

Throughout the year you will receive emails/letters regarding activities and workshops. I will also post reminders on our Class Dojo page. Thank you again for your support, we look forward to a busy and exciting term of learning! Please do not hesitate to come and speak to us at pick-up or contact us via the school office if you have any concerns or questions.

Best wishes,

Miss Bennett and the Year One Team