



Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2018

## Welcome to Year 1 😊

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Y1 team would like to welcome you and your child back after the Summer Holidays! It has been a super first week back and all children have settled very well into their new classrooms. Please see below the Y1 team for 2018-19:

<b>Class 4</b>	<b>Class 5</b>	<b>Class 6</b>
Class Teacher <b>Mr Tom Cascarina</b> Teaching Assistant <b>Mrs Sam Cornforth</b> HLTA <b>Miss Aimee Baldwin</b>	Class Teacher <b>Miss Jemma Radford</b> Teaching Assistant <b>Miss Anna Richards</b> HLTA <b>Mrs Liz Hadfield</b>	Class Teacher <b>Miss Michelle Bailey</b> Teaching Assistant <b>Miss Leah Watson</b> HLTA <b>Mrs Amanda Comasky</b>

We would like to give you some information about how things may be different for you and your child in Year 1.

First of all, please be reassured that children still will have time to play. We know that some parents (and many children!) are concerned about this. This play is perhaps a little more directed than last year, but the children still have access to construction, sand, water, creative resources, outdoor areas and so on. Many things are similar to Reception.

However, your child is now working on aspects of the National Curriculum, which is different from learning last year. You may have seen in the media that since 2014 the National Curriculum expectations have been increased. We encourage you to have a look at the National Curriculum document which is freely available on the internet so you can see for yourself the expectations. It is true that in Year 1 children have to do more 'work' but we plan this very carefully so that the change from play based, more informal learning, to what you may describe as more traditional classroom organization, is very slow. By the end of Year 1 your child needs to be ready for Year 2, but we make sure they get there using fun, engaging and stimulating activities and exploration!

We would like to take this opportunity to share with you some important information about Y1:

- The school day starts at **8.55am** but the doors open at 8.45am. Please drop your child at the door at the end of the year 1 corridor if they are in Class 4 or 5 or the door between Class 6 and 7 if your child is in Class 6. Please pick your child up from the same door at **3.25pm**, except for Class 5 from which children leave through their fire exit.
- As children in Year 1 come into school by themselves now, you may be missing that daily contact with your child's teacher. The doors are staffed on a rota basis by Mrs Dale (Acting Headteacher), Mrs Harford-Smyth (Acting Deputy Headteacher), Mrs Whitehead (School Business Manager), or Mrs Morris (Learning Mentor). These members of staff pass on your messages directly to class teachers within a few minutes of the doors closing. If you would like to, you are welcome to come into school after the children have left for the day until 4pm to look around your child's classroom any day but Monday. If you wish to speak to teachers or another member of staff, we would advise you to make an appointment or inform us before the day, as we may not always be available. You can always email us on the addresses below and we will get back to you as soon as we can and definitely within 48 hours.
- We will send a summary of learning in Y1 each week. This is to keep you informed about our learning in class so that you can talk with your child about this and practise any aspects of learning needed. You will also be able to find these on the school website.
- As we are sure you are aware, the British weather is very changeable and as we will be doing lots of outdoor learning this year, please make sure that your child brings a coat to school **every day**.
- Children are able to access drinking water all day.
- During March to September, we ask that you provide a sunhat for your child. It can stay in your child's drawer if it is not needed during those times.

- Ridgeway has the highest expectations of all children, and we want all children to be happy and safe in school. We often reinforce the importance of being kind, working hard, trying their best and following the school rules but it is really helpful if you can talk to your child at home so they know we are working together.
- We are always trying to cut down on the amount of paper used and so would like to send most of our letters through the school's email system. Please email: [parentmail@ridgeway.derby.sch.uk](mailto:parentmail@ridgeway.derby.sch.uk) with your child's name and class number to be added to the system. Please note: this email is only used for the purpose of sending letters. If you have any general questions or queries, please email [admin@ridgeway.derby.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ridgeway.derby.sch.uk) or your child's class teacher directly.

#### Assessment:

- In June 2019, the children in Year 1 will undergo the Phonics Screening Check where they will be required to read a series of words. There will be an information meeting later in the year about this and until then, can we please ask that you **do not** discuss it with your child[ren], as we are aware that some children do get very distressed about 'tests'!

#### Reading:

- Please ensure your child brings their school book bag with their reading book and reading record in **every day**. We recommend that all children have a school book bag as other bags may not fit in their drawer or on coat pegs and will cause a health and safety hazard if stored on the floor.
- Our aim is for an adult in school to listen to all children read their books each week and a team of volunteers support staff with this. If this is something you would like to get involved with, please speak to Mrs Harford-Smyth. All children will have their books changed weekly and this will be on a specified day. Children on stage 5 and above will be expected to complete **at least one piece** of comprehension homework each week, which will need to be handed in on their book changing day.
- Please help us in the development of your child's reading by **reading daily with them**. Please complete the reading record to inform us of their progress. This also tells us that children have read their books and are ready for a new one. If there is no comment in the reading record, staff/volunteers may assume that the books haven't been read and may not change them. Don't forget our library is open every day (except Friday) until 4pm for you to visit with your child. Children can change their own books in the library on Monday, Wednesday and Friday lunchtimes.

#### Homework:

- On a fortnightly basis, we will continue to send out a Learning Log challenge and ask that you encourage your child to return by the date set. We will ensure that through the open ended challenges, a range of curriculum areas will be covered and include, for instance: creative art activities, science investigations or mini research projects. With these Learning Logs, we aim to bring some breadth and enjoyment to your home learning activities.
- We will also send fortnightly (alternate to the Learning Log) spelling activities for you to practice with your child each week. We will have fun, pacy weekly spelling lessons in order to develop their reading, writing and spelling skills. These spellings are either words that are commonly used, but tricky to spell, or words that use a spelling rule that we have been learning. It is important that children learn to spell these words during Year 1 so that they can begin Year 2 with a good amount of fluency when writing. The children are not formally tested for spellings, but they are checked regularly, so please set aside a little time to practise these.
- Every week Year 1 will be focusing on a different 'Learn It' (maths calculation). Learning these facts by heart will help your child's number fluency and overall mathematical development. Please help your child to learn this during the week. The weekly 'Learn It's' will be sent out in a letter at the start of each half term.

#### PE/Swimming:

- Although your child will have a regular PE day, we like to have additional PE lessons if possible and some of these will be outside. Please make sure your child's PE kit is in school **all week**. Along with a t-shirt, shorts and pumps, long trousers and a jumper or tracksuit will be needed for outdoor PE in cooler weather. PE kits will be sent home at the end of each half term so that they can be washed.
- Your child will begin their swimming lessons at Gayton swimming pool every Friday morning **after Easter**. There will be an information meeting held prior to this in order to give you more details about how we run these sessions.
- **All earrings** must be removed by the child prior to PE or swimming lessons. **Staff members are not permitted to remove earrings**. For the first 3 weeks after the initial piercing, studs can be taped with Micropore/surgical tape supplied by home. After 3 weeks earrings must be removed.
- Articles of faith must be removed for PE lessons/swimming wherever possible. Any items removed will be kept in a box in a safe place and returned to the child at the end of the lesson. If Articles of Faith cannot be removed they must

be made safe e.g. by placing a wristband over bracelets (supplied by home) or being taped to the skin with Micropore/surgical tape. The removing or making safe of these items must be done by the child. **Unfortunately staff members are not permitted to help or do it for them.** Clothing that covers the arms or legs for religious reasons should not be baggy or loose.

- Please make sure that all of your child's clothes are clearly labelled with their name (including shoes, PE and swimming kit). This is very helpful for us in ensuring your child goes home with all their belongings!

We are sure your child will have a great time in Y1 and we look forward to working closely with you to ensure they do! Please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely,

**Mr T Cascarina**

Class 4 Teacher

[tcascarina@ridgeway.derby.sch.uk](mailto:tcascarina@ridgeway.derby.sch.uk)

**Miss J Radford**

Class 5 Teacher

[jradford@ridgeway.derby.sch.uk](mailto:jradford@ridgeway.derby.sch.uk)

**Miss M Bailey**

Class 6 Teacher

[mbailey@ridgeway.derby.sch.uk](mailto:mbailey@ridgeway.derby.sch.uk)

# Our School Rules

Look, listen, learn

Be honest

Do our best

Follow instructions first time

Try to be amazing

Be safe and sensible

Look after everything and everybody

