



Monday 4th September

Welcome to Year 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome you and your child back to school after the summer break ready to begin the new academic year. This is our Year 1 Autumn newsletter that will help to answer some of your questions and provide you with important information. Additionally, we extend a particularly warm welcome to a number of children who have joined Whinstone this week.

Coming into school

All classes will enter school via their external classroom doors. Please can we ask that you encourage and allow your child to come into class independently, saying your goodbyes at the door. We appreciate your support with this and it will enable a smooth and prompt start to the school day.

Staffing

The teaching and support staff in Key Stage 1 are as follows;

- Mr Ford (Key Stage 1 Team leader and Year 2 Teacher)
- Mrs Craig / Miss Millard (Year 2 Teachers)
- Mrs Edon / Mrs Donnelly (Year 2 Teaching Assistant)
- Miss Trotter (Year 1 Teacher)
- Mrs Wilson (Year 1 Teacher)
- Mrs Jones (Year 1 Teaching Assistant)

Mrs Hards also spends some of her time working within Key Stage 1 during our Read Write Inc lessons and the children receive some of their lessons from Miss Stansmore.

The Year 1 Curriculum

Below is a summary of our curriculum this term, but please click [here](#) for more details from our website.

In Y1 the History and Geography units for the Autumn term are My Family History and Our School and Local Area. Our Y1 Science topics are Everyday Materials and Seasonal Change. The work will be carefully differentiated to meet your child's individual learning needs and this will include carefully planned transition time for children moving up from Reception into Year 1.

Maths

The children will be taught according to the National Curriculum for Maths. We will be teaching maths in classes and assessing regularly to deliver the curriculum according to each child's individual learning needs. Each week we will study a different mathematical concept and have a pre-test at the start of the week and post test at the end to help us assess progress.

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Whinstone Primary School operates a robust safeguarding policy in order to provide a safe and secure environment for all our staff, pupils and visitors

English

The children in Year 1 will continue to follow the Read Write Inc. phonics programme and may go to a different member of teaching staff for these lessons. Children will also complete English based tasks which will include other forms of reading and writing based on the National Curriculum objectives.

Reading

In Year 1 we aim to hear children read and change books as regularly as possible. This will be a combination of reading comprehension tasks, guided (group) and individual reading. Children will also read each day in their Read Write Inc groups. Please ensure your child brings their book bag, reading record and book to school *every day*. We are happy to discuss reading or offer any guidance for support and we welcome written and verbal comments from parents in the reading records. Your child's reading book will closely match their phonic level.

We can't emphasise enough the positive impact that regular reading at home has on children's overall progress across the curriculum. Rewards / stamps are given for each day reading records are completed and signed at home. The stamps in reading records build up to certificates and prizes at different milestones.

Homework

In Year 1 we give regular weekly homework. The homework will be tailored to your child's individual learning needs and help them to progress towards their end of year objectives. **Please read with your child every evening as this has an enormous impact on their progress across the entire curriculum.** Every child in Year 1 will have a piece of Numeracy homework, spellings or Literacy based work and daily reading.

Year 1 Maths Homework will be sent home if class work needs consolidating.

Year 1 Phonics Homework given in RWI groups every Friday to be returned by the following Wednesday.

P.E

The children will be doing P.E on the following days:

Miss Trotter Y1T	- Monday and Tuesday
Mrs Wilson Y1W	- Monday and Tuesday

On their PE lesson days, we ask that children come to school in their PE kits. Further details of uniform expectations can be found in our school [prospectus](#).

Our school uniform:

- *Royal blue sweatshirts, jumpers or cardigan
- * White shirts or polo shirt
- * Grey or black trousers, shorts or skirts.
- * Plain black shoes or trainers
- * During the summer months, blue gingham dresses or grey/black uniform shorts can be worn.

Uniform with the school logo is not essential or expected - our uniform colour is available at most local supermarkets.

In school we have a stock of high quality, pre-loved uniform which is free of charge. If you wish to enquire about stock availability please email: newtoyou@whinstone.org.uk or contact the school office.

Our PE kit:

- * Suitable PE shoes or trainers
- * **Plain black** shorts/leggings/tracksuit bottoms
- * **Plain white** T-shirt.
- * **Plain black** sweatshirt, fleece or hoody. No other colours or large pictures/logos are acceptable for the sweatshirt, fleece or hoody.

NOTE: Football kits or football shirts are **not acceptable** for our PE lessons.

If a child comes in the wrong colour top/fleece or it has large pictures/logos on it, they may be asked to remove it and issued with a spare kit from bank of spare PE uniform.

General uniform expectations:

- *No necklaces, rings or bracelets to be worn in school.
- *Small studs for pierced ears - these must be removed or covered by tape on PE days.
- *Long hair tied back.
- *No nail varnish or false nails.

Named Clothing

To avoid the distress of a child losing any clothing please ensure all items of clothing -including jumpers, coats, and all items of PE kit are labelled with your child's name. **This really helps when items are misplaced.**

Water Bottles

Please can children bring named, individual water bottles into school to be kept in the classrooms. The bottles must contain plain water only please and not juice or flavoured water.

Pencil Cases

We are happy for your child to bring their own pencil case to school. We provide all of the resources that your child will need in school but some children like to bring their own to use. This could include writing pencil, colouring pencils, rubber, ruler, glue stick.

School Dinners and Snacks

All KS1 children are offered a free school dinner through the Government's Universal Free School Meals offer and the vast majority of children take a hot meal at lunchtime. If you prefer to give your child a packed lunch please inform the office to ensure we do not order too much food in the kitchen. Each day your child is also offered a piece of fruit as a healthy snack.

If you have any questions or need further clarification on any points please feel free to TA's or class teachers who are on the doors every morning. You are welcome to see myself or class teachers most days after school. Appointments can also be made to talk to class teachers if required.

We are looking forward to teaching your children and are confident that the year ahead will be fantastic!

**Thanks for your continued support,
Mr Ford and the Key Stage 1 Team.**