

Welcome to Year 1!

Welcome back to school! We hope you had a great summer and have all stayed well. We are looking forward to getting back into the routine that a new school year brings.

Year 1 2026/2027 Team



Mrs King
Hedgehog Class
Teacher
Mon, Tues



Mrs Shipway
Hedgehog Class
Teacher
Wed, Thur, Fri



Mrs Tanner
Hedgehog Class
Cover Teacher



Miss Hipgrave
Mouse Class
Teacher



Mrs Sumner
Mouse Class
Cover Teacher



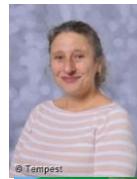
Mrs Stanborough
Hedgehog Class **TA**



Mrs Rolph
Dickinson
LSA



Mrs Meikle
LSA



Mrs Shoefield **LSA**



Miss Taylor **LSA**



Mrs Brill **LSA**



Mrs Painter
Hedgehog Class **TA**
Wed, Thur, Fri



Mrs Meehan
Mouse Class **TA**
Mon, Tues

History - Reading. The children will be learning about the changes in Reading. For this, we will be focusing on how the industries and the city centre of Reading have changed since the children's grandparents were younger.

Geography - Our Local Area. Here, children will be exploring our local area using maps and compasses. We will be practising the skills learnt in this topic on a walk around Tilehurst.

Art - Georgia O'Keeffe. The children will be improving their techniques of painting, shading and observational pencil drawings.

DT - Healthy Snack. The children will be learning how to make healthy snacks, including; fruit kebabs, veggie snacks and sandwich wraps.

Music - The children will be exploring pulse and rhythm.

Indoor PE - Dance with Mrs Bendell after half term. This half term our PE days will be Monday PM (Indoor) and Tuesday PM (Outdoor)

Outdoor PE - Fundamental movement skills. (**Tuesday**)

Science - Seasonal changes. The children will be learning about the four different seasons we experience in the UK and the types of weather we tend to have in the different seasons.

You can find more information on the school website. <https://www.birchcopse.co.uk/classes/year-1>

Dates for your diary:

Parents meetings Monday 28th

September Thursday 1st October

Times and sign up sheet to follow via MCAS.

Walk around the local area:

Wednesday 16th September



Key Information

Homework will include reading and maths. Please read at home at least for 10 minutes a day and log this in their reading record.

Please practise number bonds for 10 minutes each week. (More information to follow)

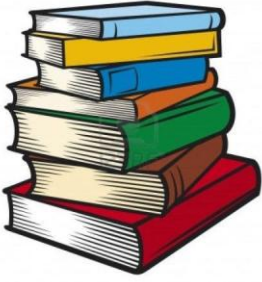
Please ensure all belongings are clearly named.

We really welcome help from parents in the school. Please speak to your child's class teacher.



How can you help at home?

There are many ways in which the children would benefit from help from parents and



Encourage your children to read a wide range of books.

Helping the children to expand their vocabulary will also be really helpful for our English lessons.



In the back of the Reading Record you will find the Year 1 common exception words.

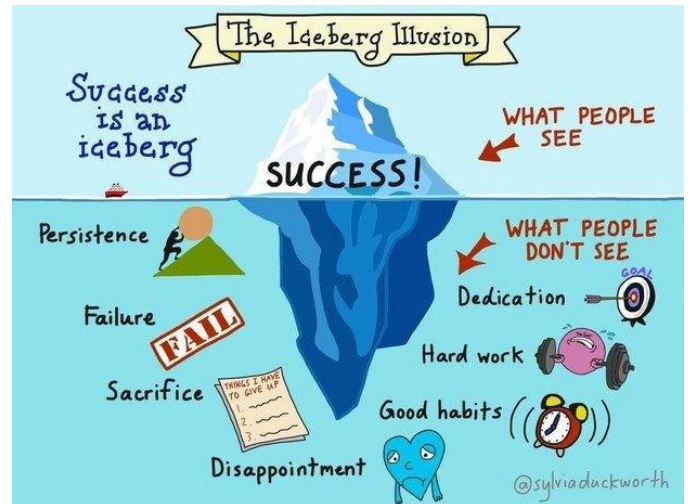
You could support your children to learn to read, spell and retain, these throughout the year.

SUPERSONIC Phonic Friends

Support and encourage your children to learn their phonics. At the transition meeting for new Year 1 parents we will give you a sound mat to keep at home with the sounds they are working on.

In Year 1, all children are required to sit a statutory Phonics Screening Check, in the summer term. The purpose of the check is to determine whether pupils can recall and apply their phonics knowledge to support them with their reading.

When reading with your child, please also ask them questions about the book. They can't move onto the next book level until their phonics and comprehension skills meet the required level. Their reading level will be assessed every time your child reads with a school adult.



We talk in school about having a 'Growth Mindset'. Encouraging and supporting your children with the Growth Mindset principles in mind will really help. Encourage your children to learn through their mistakes and to be resilient will help them to succeed in Year 1.

Homework

Reading: Your child will bring his/her reading book home each night. Please remember to sign and date the reading record whenever you listen to your child read, so that the book can be changed as regularly as possible. We are aware that the books that they are reading will become longer as they move through the reading scheme. Therefore, please do not feel that you need to read the whole book. We ask that the children read for at **least 10 minutes a day, at least 5 times a week.**

Maths: This year we will be sending home a letter with further details on how to support and administer maths homework. The focus will be on embedding number bonds to 10 in order to develop instant recall. Every Friday we will be having a timed maths quiz to assess how the children are getting on and when they are ready to move on to the next level.

Spelling: We will not be setting spelling homework on a weekly basis. However, there is a list of Year 1 common exception words within your child's Reading Record. We will be practising these words (alongside continued phonics and Year 1 spelling rules) and assessing them on a half termly basis. Therefore, any additional support you can give your child with learning these words throughout the year would be greatly appreciated.

Reading Prizes:

To reward the children for regular reading of their school books at home, we award the children prizes periodically throughout the year. It is imperative that parents/carers write in the yellow reading records for school to be able to track the frequency of the children's reading.

every 20 reads = prize



PE in Year 1

Monday—Indoor PE

Tuesday— Outdoor PE

We are asking that the children still come to school in their PE kits, on the days they will be partaking in lessons.



House colour t-shirt



Black shorts



Long hair tied back



Tracker covered

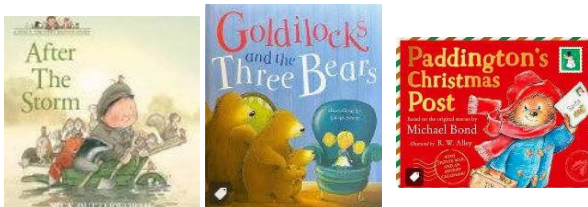
As we head into the colder weather, children may wear a plain black tracksuit over their shorts and t-shirt to keep them warm at break and lunch.

May we also remind you that your child will not be permitted to do PE if they are wearing earrings or studs even if they are covered with plasters. If this is the case, please could you provide a note with an estimation of when the earrings will be able to come out.

Plastic retainers are permitted but these will also need to be covered for PE lessons.

For more information about our [uniform policy](#), please see the website.

In our Reading lessons, we will be exposing the children to many different texts. Here is a small list of some, which the children may be inspired to read.



Our main focus for English this term will be letter formation, sentence structure and building their stamina in writing.

There is so much to look forward to as we begin our first term in Year 1, including our trip to Beale Park and our walk around Tilehurst.

Should you wish to discuss any aspects of this term's work or any other matters, please feel free to contact the office or send us a note to arrange a mutually convenient time to discuss it. We look forward to meeting you and discussing the progress of your child at our termly Parent/Teacher discussions.

As per the school policy, please could you make the class teachers aware of regular pick-up arrangements if the adult picking up is not a parent.

Miss Hipgrave

Mrs Shipway

Mrs King