



# **WELCOME TO Year 1**

Dear parents or guardians,

We would like to welcome you and your child to Year 1. We are taking this opportunity at the beginning of the new school year to inform you about all aspects of school life in Year 1. We feel that if we all work together, your child will achieve the appropriate levels for their age and have a positive and fulfilling experience at Holywell.

This pack includes information on:

- Year 1 staff
- Curriculum
- Holywell explorers
- Themes for the Year
- Attendance and Punctuality
- Clubs
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- Handwriting
- Homework
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- Assessment
- School Uniform and PE kit
- Dinner Money
- Trips
- Parents Evening
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- Assemblies



**Year 1 - Staff**  
**Staff**

**Miss Whiting**  
**Mrs Hussain**  
**Miss Hughes**  
**Mrs Dattani**  
**Miss Hampton**  
**Mr Keller**

**Teacher of Sycamore class**  
**Teacher of Maple class**  
**Teaching Assistant**  
**Teaching Assistant**  
**Year 1 Leader**  
**Phase Leader/ Assistant Headteacher**



## Curriculum

As is required by law, we follow the National Curriculum, which provides the children with the opportunity to fulfil their individual potential.

The children will often be grouped according to ability for their Guided Reading, Phonics, English and Numeracy sessions to help them achieve their targets. This is to ensure that each child's needs are met.

Themes for the whole school area:

Autumn Term – Great Britain

Spring Term – International

Summer Term – Local area

## Holywell explorers

**Pupils in Year 1 also take part in Holywell Explorers on a Friday afternoon.** This is an opportunity for pupils to learn outside and teachers will focus on skills like team work and cooperation. Pupils need suitable clothing for this as learning takes place outside and lessons will carry on despite the weather. **A warm coat and wellington boots are recommended for these lessons.**



## Attendance and Punctuality

**Please ensure that your child is in the playground and lined up by 8.55 am.** The children are expected to come into class independently. It is important that your child arrives on time, since our first lesson of the day will begin promptly at 9.00 a.m. If your child is absent from school, they must bring a note or parents must inform the teacher either in person or by telephone. Regular absences from school can affect your child's learning, since they will miss some vital work that has been planned. This will then mean that they will be working to 'catch up' when they return.

Children should line up at 8.55 am in the playground outside Key Stage 1 (or in the hall on rainy mornings). The children are to be collected from their classroom doors in the same area and will remain in class until their name is called by the class teacher. Children who are not collected will be taken to the school office.

**Please inform the office if your child will be collected by another adult.**

## Clubs

The school run a range of before and after school clubs. Letters for clubs go out at the start of a half term and places are allocated on a first come first serve basis.



## Holidays

Extended holidays are no longer permitted by law. Please make every effort to go away during the school holidays so that your child's schooling is not disrupted. Your child may be removed from the school roll if you do take an unauthorised absence.



## Expectations

In Year 1, we expect every child to work towards achieving their full potential. The work will be set to match the children's varying abilities within the year group. Children are expected to try their best and behave appropriately in the classroom, the outdoor area and around the school, respecting both adults and other children.



## Handwriting

The school uses cursive script handwriting scheme. This means that letters are consistently joined up.



## Home Reading/Homework

The children will be given a reading book to read. **Books will be changed three times a week on Monday, Wednesday and Friday (Home learning policy).**

There is an expectation that the children read every night for at least 15 mins. Pupils in Year 1 will take home 2 reading books every other day, one will be of their current book band (they may need some support with) and the other will be of the book band below which should be read independently. Reading records are checked on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Homework goes home on Friday and focuses on; number bonds, times tables, Phonics and word recognition and writing.

Please comment about your child's reading in their reading booklet. It is crucial to sign in your child's reading record so the class teacher is aware that the child is reading daily at home.

In addition to their reading we would be grateful if you could help your child to learn high frequency words, letter names and sounds and numbers on a daily basis.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.



## Assessment

In Years 1 the children are continually assessed throughout the year. More thorough assessments will take place three times a year. We will share your child's progress with you on a termly basis at Parent's Evening. **In Year 1 all pupils will be entered for the phonics screening test, which is a national test for all children in Year 1. The test**

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September 2019**

**is in June and focusses on the children reading real and alien words which have phase 3 and 5 sounds.** More information about this will be shared with parents once it is available to schools.



### **Uniform and P.E. Kit**

It is school policy that all children wear uniform. This consists of white top, grey trousers or skirt/pinafore and the school jumper. We would encourage that your child wears school shoes. **Please ensure all items of clothing including shoes are labelled.** Children must not wear jewellery, however, studs are acceptable.

Physical Education (P.E.) is a compulsory part of the curriculum and important for the child's physical and social development. It is school policy that all children wear the correct P.E. kit in order to participate in P.E. activities safely. The kit consists of a white t-shirt, maroon shorts and plimsolls. **Year 1 pupils have PE on Tuesday afternoons as well as Thursday (Maple) and Wednesday (Sycamore). Please ensure that your child's P.E. kit is permanently marked with your child's name and class on it.**

**All children will have an additional P.E. day with their class teacher.**

### **Book bags**

The children will need a Holywell book bag, which can be purchased from the office.



### **Dinner Money**

**Pupils in Year 1 are entitled to a free school meal under the universal free school meals scheme.** All parents are required to register for this as it entitles the school to additional funding that could be spent on resources for learning.



### **Trips**

The children will be going on school trips throughout the year, information will be shared nearer the time.

### **Parents Evening**

Parent evenings take place three times a year. Teachers will be available throughout the year to discuss your child's progress on an individual basis.

## **Phonics**

### **Phonics Screening Check Year 1**

The National phonics screening check is a statutory assessment that was introduced in 2012 to all Year 1 pupils and is a quick and easy check of your child's phonics knowledge. All Year 1 pupils will take the phonics screening check in 2020 during the week beginning 8th June. It comprises of a list of 40 words and nonsense words. It will assess phonics skills and knowledge learnt through reception and year 1. Your child will read one-one with a teacher. It will be your child's current teacher so it is a familiar face. Your child will read up to 4 words per page and they will probably do the check in 10-15 minutes. They will be asked to 'sound out' a word and blend the sounds together. The check is very similar to tasks the children already complete during phonics lessons. Children who don't pass will retake the test in year 2.

The screening check will identify children who have phonic decoding skills below the level expected for the end of year 1 and who therefore need help.

## **Festival of Learning**

Each half term children showcase their work where parents are invited to come to school. This also takes the form of Christmas Fete and Community Evenings, for which you will receive more information about at a later date. Parents/Carers will also have an opportunity to view and contribute to their child's learning journey record book.

## **Assemblies**

Each class in the school takes part in a class assembly on a weekly basis. The parents of the class completing the assembly will be informed of when their child's assembly will take place and the parents are invited to come along to support their children.



## **Thank you**

We thank you for your continued support in working together to help your child achieve their full potential. We look forward to a successful working partnership.

Yours sincerely,

- Miss Whiting, Mrs Hussain, Miss Hampton and Mr Keller