

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
ENSTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL



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Friday 12th September

Dear Parents,

We are delighted to welcome you all to the start of a brand-new school term. It has been a wonderful beginning, and we are pleased to share that the children have settled in brilliantly.

Our Reception children are already beginning to learn their daily routines with growing confidence, and it has been heartwarming to see the Year 1 pupils supporting them so kindly and enthusiastically. Their maturity and leadership have helped create a positive and nurturing environment for our new starters. It has been a fantastic start to the term, and we look forward to seeing the children continue to grow, learn, and enjoy their time in school.

The Team

This year Glyme Class will be supported by Mrs Moore, Miss Young and Miss Tuckey. On a Monday afternoon Mrs Slark will lead the class during my planning, preparation and assessment session.

P.E.

P.E. takes place on a Monday and Friday afternoon. Please ensure that P.E kits are kept in school at all times. P.E kits should comprise of a blue school t-shirt, navy blue shorts, a navy blue sweatshirt, navy blue tracksuit bottoms and a pair of trainers. If your child is unable to tie their shoelaces, please provide them with Velcro fastening trainers. Please also include a spare pair of socks.

Water Bottles

Staying hydrated throughout the day is really important for children's concentration, energy levels, and overall wellbeing. That's why we encourage all children to bring a named water bottle to school each day. Please don't worry if it looks like your child hasn't drunk much — we often refill water bottles during the day, especially after playtimes or P.E. sessions, so it's likely they've had more than it appears.

We kindly ask that bottles contain **water only**, rather than clear flavoured drinks. Water is the healthiest option for keeping brains and bodies working their best throughout the school day.



Homework

Homework in Year 1 consists of weekly spellings, reading and maths activities. These activities are designed to reinforce the objectives your child has been working on in class. In Reception, our homework focus is reading. The children will be allocated a Phonics Bug reading book in the next few weeks.

Spelling – Year 1

Homework will involve learning to spell words which contain the sounds we have been working on in our phonics lessons, high frequency words, common exception words and specific spelling patterns. Spelling homework will be issued on a Friday and our weekly spelling dictation will take place on the following Thursday.

Reading

Year 1

We would like your child to read their Phonics Bug book at home, **three times** per week. The first read your child should focus on applying their phonetic knowledge to read the text. During the second read, encourage your child to read aloud with appropriate stress, meaning and intonation. In the final reading session, discuss the text with your child. Do they understand the story? What was their favourite part and why?

The Phonic Bug book will be changed on a Friday, if it has been read three times. We will also check the reading diaries at other points in the week so you may find your child's book is changed midweek.

We understand that some weeks it might be harder to read three times than others but reading regularly at home will help to develop your child's vocabulary, comprehension and spelling skills.

We have assessed the Year 1 pupils' ability to read a variety of phonemes and key words. A list of these can be found at the front of your child's Reading Diary. It would be helpful to revise these words and phonemes regularly to build fluency. When we feel confident that your child has retained the phonemes and key words, we will highlight them.

Reception

Initially the children will receive a Phonics Bug book which has no text. Understanding a book with no words involves interpreting the illustrations. This promotes comprehension, vocabulary, listening skills and an understanding of story structure and character development. Feel free to read these books as many times as you like. They will be changed on a Friday.

Maths

Year 1

In maths this term, we will be working on place value, addition, subtraction and shape. Maths homework consists of activities which reinforce the objectives we have covered in class. Homework will be allocated on a Friday and should be completed and returned by the following Thursday. The activities will revise work we have covered in class and should only



take 10-15 mins to complete. If you or your child is unsure about how to tackle the homework activity, feel free to write a note on their activity sheet.

Class Dojo Points

Year 1 children will be awarded points when they hand in completed homework. They will receive a point for completing their spelling and maths activity as well as reading three times per week **at home**. There are three points up for grabs each week! At the end of term, we will count each child's points and depending on how many they have accumulated, they will receive a celebration certificate.

Waffle the Bear

Waffle is our class bear who loves to spend the weekend with our children. Pupil's will take Waffle home on a Friday and return him by the following Wednesday. Waffle has a little diary which he takes to each child's house. It would be great if you could add an entry to the diary by either sticking in some photographs of your child and the bear or asking your child to draw a picture of what they did together. You might even like to write a few sentences explaining what Waffle has been up to whilst visiting. When Waffle is returned to school your child will then tell the class about their adventures together.

I hope that you find this information helpful. If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to ask a member of the Glyme team.

Yours sincerely

Mrs A Griffith

Class Teacher

