**Autumn 2026 - Welcome to Year 1!**

Hello and welcome to Year 1. We are all looking forward to getting to know you all, and to a wonderful year ahead! This newsletter's aim is to give you a general overview of what we will be learning over this half term as well as to answer some frequently asked questions. For History and Science, we will be uploading the knowledge organisers onto the school website under the Year 1 class page, if you would like to see the key knowledge the children will be learning. We will also share them on Class Dojo.

**The Staff in Year 1 are**:
Class Teachers:
Frogs Class: **Miss Christie (Monday, Thursday, Friday) and Mrs Gell (Tuesday, Wednesday)**
Squirrels Class: **Mrs Gell (Monday) and Mrs Phillips (Tuesday – Friday)**
Teaching Assistants: **Mrs Hall, Mrs Carter, Mrs Mullan and Miss Beardsley.**

**What are we learning in Autumn Term 1?**
Throughout this half term, we will be having daily English and Maths lessons, this will consist of a whole class input, and a teacher led activity alongside continuous provisions, which allows children to learn through play. We will also have daily phonics lessons, and each child will have a guided reading group 3 times a week, where will focus on decoding, prosody and comprehension. Please see below about the rest of the curriculum coverage for Autumn 1:

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| **History** | How have toys changed over time? |
| **Science** | Everyday Materials |
| **Art** | Animals |
| **Computing** | Digital painting |
| **PE** | Fundamental Skills and Gymnastics. |
| **English** | Smeds and Smoos, Talk for Writing: Billy the Brave Knight. |
| **Maths** | Place value, addition and subtraction |
| **PSHE** | Me and My Relationships |
| **Music** | Move to the beat! Exploring pulse and rhythm. |

**FAQs:**

| **When are PE days?** |
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| PE Days are Monday (Indoor) and Thursday (Outdoor).<br>Please ensure that your child **comes to school dressed in their PE kit on their day.** They should have the appropriate PE kit in accordance with the school PE kit policy – plain white t-shirt, black shorts, black hoodie/black tracksuit bottoms for winter. Please note that jewellery is **not** permitted in PE lessons for safety reasons. If your child cannot take their earrings out, please make sure they have been removed before school. Children with long hair should wear their hair up during PE lessons so please ensure they have a bobble. |

| **Is my child entitled to a free school meal?** |
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| Children in Year 1 are entitled to a cooked school dinner each day. They can choose whether to have this or to bring their own packed lunch instead. Whilst this is entirely your choice, we thought it was worth reminding you that you don't have to pay for this cooked dinner until the children move into Year 3. Make sure you take up this offer if you want or need to. Please check the menu each day so your child knows what to choose during the register. |
| **Is my child entitled to free school milk?** |
| Unfortunately, most children in Year 1 are not entitled to free milk each day. If you wish your child to continue to have milk, please contact the school office for the relevant form. If you are |

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| in receipt of benefits, your child may be entitled to free school milk, but you will need to complete the form so that the milk can be allocated. |
| **Does my child need to bring in a snack?** |
| Children in Year 1 have a morning and afternoon playtime each day which they spend outside. During morning playtime, children are allowed to eat a healthy snack such as a piece of fruit, sticks of vegetables or a fruit/vegetable-based bar, please no crisps, chocolate or any other high sugar snack as they are not allowed in school. If you wish to provide your child with a snack, please remember that we are a nut-free school.<br>In the afternoon we will supply them with a healthy snack, however if you prefer, your child could bring in an additional snack for afternoon play time. |
| **Does my child need to bring in a water bottle?** |
| Each child needs a named water bottle full of water so that they can stay hydrated during the day. You can choose to take this home on a daily basis or once a week to wash, if this suits you better. Children are able to refill their bottles whenever they need to at school. Whilst a separate drink of juice is fine as part of a packed lunch, the bottles in the classrooms should only contain water. |
| **Why does my child have two different books sent home with them?** |
| On Friday we will send home 2 books, and we will swap them every Thursday.<br>These books have very different but equally important roles. Please take a moment to read about how we would like you to use these books:<br>**Decodable book**<br>This is the book your child needs to read to you. It contains words that they are able to read with confidence and will help develop their fluency and decoding ability. This book is carefully matched to your child's reading ability and we ask that you listen to them read this book as many times as possible during the week. The idea is that they gain more confidence each time they read and are able to read more smoothly and with expression as they become more familiar with the text. Ideally, children should be reading to you every day. In Key Stage 1 we ask that children read to an adult at home a minimum of 3 times a week. This should be recorded in your child's school diary for us to see.<br>**Sharing book**<br>This book is for you to read to your child. We do not expect children to be able to read these books but, instead, they are for you to read and enjoy together, perhaps at bedtime. Hearing stories is hugely beneficial for children and we want you to make this a regular part of your daily routine, if you don't already read books together. We understand how hectic life can get but 5 minutes together sharing a story is a lovely way to end the day and not only helps your child to relax before they go to sleep but gives them access to a world of imagination that is vital for their development. You can also record this in your child's school diary. Books are changed once a week but your child may be asked to read with an adult on any day so please make sure their books and diaries are in their bookbags every day. |

Just a few reminders as we start our new school year:

**Named clothing** – In Year 1 the children use lots of different areas of the school and this can mean that they accidentally leave jumpers or cardigans in unusual places. To ensure your child's uniform items are returned to them, if they become lost, please name ALL items clearly (including shoes and wellies if possible). Staff may write your child's name into items to assist with this, if they are not named.

**Wellies** – Please bring wellies in as soon as possible, this will allow your child to access all areas of OPAL play at all times. If you don't have wellies or need to swap, don't forget to come along to our welly swap (see Class Dojo for more information)

**Communication** – We use Class Dojo for communication. This allows us to share pictures and information about what we've been doing in class. Any urgent messages should be e-mailed/phoned in to the school as Class Dojo may not be checked before/during the school day. Please remind yourselves of the Code of Conduct that Mrs Barbuti shared at the start of the year.

Class teachers are available at the end of the day at the classroom door for any quick conversations or to make an appointment for longer conversations.

If you have any questions about the curriculum or if you require any support, please let us know.

For urgent matters please phone school or use admin@rbps.org.uk as we may not check the Dojo messages immediately.

Many thanks and best wishes,
Year 1 Team