



# The Blake CE Primary School

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Headteacher Tim Edwards-Grundy



*Loving, learning and flourishing in community*

## Welcome to Year 1: 2023/24

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all our Year 1 families! We have been so impressed with how your children have settled into Year 1 and we are looking forward to a happy and successful year together. We hope this letter will provide lots of important information about Year 1 but please do ask if there are questions left unanswered.

### The Year 1 Team

1KH: Miss Hallowell (Class teacher) and Miss Knipe (Teaching Assistant)

1DF: Miss Hinkins (Class Teacher) and Mrs Jordan (Teaching Assistant)

Mrs Jordan will also be teaching 1VH on Wednesday afternoons and 1KH on Thursday afternoons.

Your child may be taught by any members of the Year 1 team at different points in the year, particularly for Phonics. We also have some wonderful volunteers who may read with your children in school.

### Times of the School Day

We open our doors at 8:40am and enjoy welcoming your children individually into the classroom. The doors are locked at 8:50am, after which please make your way to the school office. The children have a morning snack at 10:10am, followed by a play time outside from 10.20am – 10.40am. The children go into the hall to eat their lunch at 11:50am, followed by a lunchtime play outside, which finishes at 1:00pm. They then have an afternoon break and snack at 2:45pm and the school day finishes at 3:20pm.

### Snacks and Water

The children have two opportunities for a snack in the school day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon. The majority of children bring in a snack from home for the morning and then have a fruit snack provided by the government in the afternoon. Please ensure snacks are brought in a named pot or box. Snacks must be healthy and must not contain any nuts. We suggest fresh fruit or vegetables, but your child may also bring in a cereal bar, crackers or cheese if they prefer. No crisps, sweets or chocolate. Children must also bring in a named water bottle, which they can access and refill throughout the day.

### Essential items

Please make sure your child has the following in school every day:

- Water bottle
- Healthy snack
- Book bag – with reading diary and reading book inside!
- Trainers/outdoor shoes

## **Collective Worship**

During the week we have a time of reflection every day. On a Monday and Friday, Collective Worship takes place in the school hall with the rest of the school. We end each day with a reflection time and the school prayer.

## **Curriculum**

Please find attached an overview of our curriculum for the year. Our overarching topics across the year are: 'All about Me', 'Toys', 'Pirates', 'Space', 'Enchanted Forests' and 'Animals', all of which will provide your children with exciting learning opportunities while ensuring key Year 1 learning objectives are met.

## **PE**

We have two PE times a week; Tuesday afternoon is our indoor session and Friday morning is our outdoor session. Please ensure PE kits are in school on these days. It is essential that all PE kit items are clearly named! Long hair needs to be tied back for PE and earrings need to be removed. If your child is wearing tights, please ensure they have socks in their PE bag. If there is a medical reason why your child cannot take part one week, please let us know.

We also enjoy 'Wake and Shake' and 'Movement Breaks' throughout the school day, providing regular opportunities for exercise and wherever the weather allows, children will have learning time outside in the Year 1 garden.

## **Reading**

Reading is an essential part of the Year 1 curriculum. While we read throughout the week during Phonics lessons, we aim to read with your child individually once a week. This may be with either with your child's teacher, a Teaching Assistant or a volunteer reader; reading will be recorded in your child's Reading Diary.

Reading with your child at home is essential for their reading development and confidence. We appreciate your support with this and would encourage you to ask questions and discuss the stories, to help develop their comprehension and enhance their enjoyment of their reading. We recommend reading with your child for at least 10 minutes every day; please record this in their Reading Diary.

## **Reading Books**

Each week, your child will come home with a decodable book which they should be able to read to you using their phonics skills (sounding out unknown words). Your child should aim to read this book three times before changing it. The first read will be decoding and slower, the second read should be more fluent and during the third read they should be adding expression. When the book has been read three times, they can change it for a new one, either during their reading time with an adult, or if they need their book changing sooner, please let us know on the door in the morning.

On Friday afternoons, your child will have the opportunity to visit our school library and bring home a book of their own choosing. If your child would like to change their book, please make sure their book is in their bag on this day! Library books are to encourage your child's love of reading and expose them to a range of rich vocabulary. Depending on your child's reading level, you may read this with or to your child and enjoy the story / information together.

**Show and Tell**

Each week, five children will have the opportunity for 'Show and Tell'. They can choose to bring something in to share or simply share some news. The children love the opportunity to share and look forward to their turn, but it is also good for developing their speaking and listening skills, as well as their confidence for speaking in front of a group. Of course, if something special happens and it is not their week for 'Show and Tell', do let us know and we can squeeze them in! We will let you know whose turn it is for 'Show and Tell' in our Friday weekly letter.

**Crafts and Resources Donation**

In Year 1, the children continue to enjoy a range of craft and creative activities. In order for us to purchase the resources to provide these activities, we ask for a contribution of £5 each long term (3 times a year rather than £2.50 6 times a year). We have popped an envelope in your child's bag to help with this. Thank you for your support!

**Friday Weekly letter**

Every Friday, we will send home a weekly letter. This will include questions to ask your child to reflect on their learning from the week, as well as giving an outline of the following week's learning. We will also let you know the 'Show and Tell' children for the following week, as well as using it to keep you up-to-date with things as we go along! After Christmas, we will start including spellings on the weekly letter for your children to practise at home.

We very much look forward to a happy and learning-filled year with your children.

Kind regards,

The Year 1 team