

# Welcome to Year 1 at Layston Autumn Term 2021



Loving to learn,  
Learning to love,  
For every child  
A chance to shine.



## A very warm welcome to Year 1.

We realise that this has been another extremely unusual school year. Many of you may be anxious about your child returning to school to a new class and the learning opportunities that they have missed due to the pandemic.

Firstly, we would like to reassure you that we are continuing to maintain high levels of hygiene in school, despite the government's lifting of restrictions. We will continue promoting outdoor learning opportunities where possible, and encouraging children to play and enjoy learning both inside and out.

The school are also committed to a 'Recovery Curriculum'. This is a national initiative to support schools to help children regain some of what they have lost due to lock downs. Year 1 have also worked hard with the Early Years to ensure a blended curriculum between Reception and Year 1 and enhanced continuous provision. As much as possible Y1 autumn term 1 will reflect YR's summer 2.

As always, we are here to help, and are happy to talk to you. Please recognise that, unless it is an emergency, mornings are not a great time for us to speak to you as we are trying to welcome your children and settle them safely and happily into school. If you would like to talk to us, please make an appointment via the school office or catch us at the end of the school day to make an appointment.

We are excited that this year we will be able to welcome you face to face for a 'Meet the Teachers' session in the autumn term, where you will be able to ask questions and get to know us. We would also really like to direct you to various sections of the 'Parent' section of the school website which will support you:

Home Learning Zone – full of information, resources and videos to support your child's learning at home and includes homework

Parental engagement – what do I need to do to support my child?

Well-being and Positive Mental Health – useful information on helping you and your child manage any issues related to mental health

Transition – videos to support transition

### Curriculum:

If you look at the school website (Classes and Curriculum - Classes - Year 1) you will find detailed long term (Curriculum Map) and medium term (Knowledge Organisers) plans for the learning that your child will engage with during Y1. The Home Learning Zone – Year 1 also contains lots of information to support your child's learning at home.

### English this term:

In literacy we shall be developing the children's phonic knowledge, writing captions and labels, sequencing stories and exploring rhymes as well as writing simple reports and recounts. Your child will be heard read throughout the week through Guided Reading sessions using the RWI books. Individual books will be sent home and changed at the beginning of the week. It is important for children to re-read books to develop their fluency. We continue to recommend the Oxford Owl website for eBooks, as recommended by Mrs Kelly.

### Numeracy this term:

We will be continuing to work on addition and introducing subtraction, recalling number bonds to 10 and 20, and counting forwards and backwards. We will be learning mathematical concepts in a hands-on way, using manipulatives and lots of practical learning.

### Topics this term:

Our first half term topic is Explorers, looking at Amelia Earhart and Neil Armstrong. Our second half term topic is Toys, Now and Then. Science covers Weather and Seasonal Changes as well as introducing Materials after half term. Children will also continue to benefit from Forest School sessions to support the 'Recovery Curriculum' and where science, geography, maths and art can all be taught and reinforced within the context of the outdoors.

### Art and Design Technology this term:

These subjects will be blocked over 2-3 days. We will look at the art work of Giuseppe Arcimboldo and learn how to do still life drawings of fruit and vegetables. In DT we will be looking at free standing structures and designing miniature playground equipment.

### RE and PSHRE this term:

During RE we will be exploring the Christian concept of God, Creation, Harvest and the birth of Jesus. In PSHRE we shall be learning about who we can talk to if we are anxious, building friendships, creating community art work and talking about our feelings.

### The Year 1 Team:

Miss Bliss will be teaching on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Mrs Betley will be teaching on Thursdays and Fridays. She is also Deputy, SENDCo & Mental Health Lead. Mrs Downs is our main Teaching Assistant, with Mrs Lewis on a Thursday.

### Timetable information:

Wednesday is Forest School and the usual Forest School kit with wellies will be needed. Please ensure everything is named.

Tuesday and Thursday are our PE days and again the usual kit, with trainers and joggers will be needed. Please ensure everything is named.

There will be English and maths learning every day.

### General Information:

Please send your child in with a named coat each day (whatever the weather forecast), as well as a named water bottle. It is essential that all of your child's belongings are named.

### Medicines:

If your child requires medication such as an inhaler or Epipen, please ensure you have spoken to the office to update their Care Plan and that the medication we have is correct and in date.

### School website:

Please do check the school website for any further information. It is always helpful if you have discussed the school dinners with your child the night before so that they are sure what they want for lunch. We remind you that we are a nut free school and also expect children to bring a healthy snack for break time, such as cheese and crackers, cereal bars, fresh fruit and vegetables. Please cut grapes in half to reduce any risk of choking.

Remember we are here to help – please do not hesitate to contact us with any queries. Thank you.

[sbetley@layston.herts.sch.uk](mailto:sbetley@layston.herts.sch.uk)

[mbliss@layston.herts.sch.uk](mailto:mbliss@layston.herts.sch.uk)