



12th September 2023

Dear parents

Year 1 Newsletter Autumn 1

A very warm welcome to Year 1. We've been delighted at how happily the children have returned to school after the summer and how quickly they have settled in. It has also been lovely to welcome our new children and their families to the year group. As well as letting you know what we'll be doing in the first half of the autumn term, this first newsletter of the year also includes some more general information about Year 1 which we will also cover in our Welcome to Year 1 Meeting tomorrow at 3pm.

Transition and Learning

To ease the transition into Year 1, we have kept the autumn term timetable and the routines very similar to those the children are familiar with from Reception. We will teach short sessions in English, phonics and maths every day alongside a mixture of adult-led and child-led activities indoors and out in The Garden. This timetable will ensure progress in English and maths, while also providing lots of opportunities for independent play and learning. We will also include lessons in science, history, geography, computing and art. Our aim is to have confident and happy children who are increasingly independent and love learning.

Staffing

Let's introduce you to the team! IKL is taught by Kate Imeson and Lorraine Gooday, supported by Jo Bell and Grace Browett. ITB is taught by Tom Bhanji and Lorraine Gooday, supported by Rachael Adams. Lorraine teaches in IKL on Mondays and Tuesdays, and in ITB on Thursdays. We also have a team of SEN support staff who work with a number of children in the year group. Kate Imeson is the phase leader.

The Year 1 Curriculum Topics

We start Year 1 with a wonderful topic, The World Through Our Senses. We introduced this to the children through an exciting 'In-day' where they explored the five senses through a range of sensory activities. Over the next few weeks, we will investigate each sense in more detail, including the different parts of the body that are involved in sensing the world around us. We will find out about the history of Braille and interview a member of staff from Blanche Nevile School to find out what it is like to be deaf. Towards the end of the term, we will focus on our sense of taste as we harvest, cook and sample delicious food from the school allotment, which we hope to sell at our own Farmers' Market. It is going to be a very busy and fun half term!



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English - Writing and handwriting

The children have begun the term thinking, exploring, reading and writing about the five senses. We start with the classic picture books *Polar Bear, Polar Bear, What Can You Hear?* and *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Can You See?* by Bill Martin Jr and Eric Carle, followed by Michael Rosen's *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*. The children always love reading and acting out Michael Rosen's well-known story and exploring the onomatopoeic language in the text.

Finally, we return to writing captions to describe the delicious products we'll be selling at our Farmers' Market. The children will also have the chance to produce pieces of independent writing in their News books telling us what they've been up to outside school. In handwriting, we will revise how to correctly form printed (unjoined) letters, concentrating on accuracy and increasing fluency in preparation for the introduction of joining strokes later in the year.

English – Phonics and Reading

As in Reception, the children will have a daily Phonics lesson following the Little Wandle scheme, and regular short reading practice sessions in a group each week. They will explore one book each week, focusing on decoding, reading with expression and comprehension. At the end of the week, this book will be 'sent home' as an e-book which you can access via the Harper Collins website, exactly as you did in Reception. The children will then be able to impress you with all they have learnt and practised that week!

Reading Records

We really love it when parents leave comments in their child's reading records letting us know how reading is going at home – not only the e-book, but any other books your child may be enjoying. We will collect reading records in on Wednesdays to give us time to read and respond to your comments before they go home again in book bags on Fridays.

Reading practice & reading for pleasure books

As well as their virtual 'reading practise book', the children will have the opportunity to bring home a 'reading for pleasure' or 'sharing' book, which they will choose from the class library each week. This is intended to be a book that you enjoy together and for you to read to your child, rather than a book for your child to read to you. We would, of course, also encourage you to continue reading a special bedtime story to your child, too.

Maths

During this half-term we will be concentrating on consolidating and developing the children's key skills and knowledge, especially their understanding of numbers to 10 and where numbers are in the number system. We'll be doing lots of counting forwards and backwards, practising reading and writing numbers to 10, ordering and comparing numbers. We'll be sorting and grouping objects and exploring different ways of representing numbers using objects, pictures and number lines. Later in the term we move on to investigate adding and subtracting numbers up to 10, using a range of equipment and visual models. The children will learn to read, write and interpret mathematical equations using symbols, and to use their understanding to solve problems. We'll also be focusing on learning some 'number bonds' by heart, such as $5 + 5$, $9 + 1$, $8 + 2$. Again, any practice you can do at home is always very helpful! While some of the work we do this half term may feel like revision of Reception learning, the aim is for the children to be secure in their knowledge, understanding and skills so that they are ready to apply their learning to larger numbers later in the year.

Other subjects

Music: This term our specialist music teacher, Hilla Moshenson, will be teaching our weekly music lessons and leading Singing Assembly on Tuesdays.



Forest School: Forest School will start in the week beginning Monday 18th September. ITB will visit Highgate Woods on Mondays and IKL on Wednesdays. Dates and full details will be shared in a separate letter.

PE: Our PE focus this term will be on Gymnastics and Ball Skills. No PE kit is required in Year 1, but please make sure your child is wearing suitable clothes and footwear on the following days:

IKL

Tuesday: outdoor PE

Wednesday: indoor PE in gym

ITB

Monday: indoor PE in gym

Tuesday: outdoor PE

Homework and Google Classroom:

We will be setting homework via Google Classroom, as in Reception. You will also receive a yellow homework book, with the Google Classroom log-in inside. We will set the homework activity each Friday. Please help your child to complete the activity and then upload a photograph (or short video) of their work onto Google Classroom by the following Wednesday. You do not need to send the homework book back into school.

Other Important Things

Timings and Punctuality: As you know, in Year 1, drop off and pick up will be from The Garden. Please do your very best to arrive in the morning with plenty of time to say your goodbyes before we line up and take the classes inside at 9 o'clock; this really does ensure your child has the very best start to their day. If you are late, please drop your child at the Office.

At afternoon pick up ITB use the entrance nearest to the stage, while IKL use the gate beyond.

Medicine: if your child takes any prescribed medication, including an inhaler, please make sure you have filled in a medical form at the Office and that the medication is in date and in school.

Book Bags: Your child should bring their book bag in every day, please. If you need a new bag, please order one through the school website. <https://www.highgateprimaryschool.co.uk/school-office/online-payments>

Water and snacks: As in Reception, the school provides fresh fruit or vegetables each day and the children have their own named cups and jugs of water, so there is no need for water bottles or snacks from home.

Clothes: We love going outside whatever the weather and the children tend to love messy play, so please dress your child appropriately! A spare bag of clothing with your child's name on is always useful in case they need to change. This can stay on your child's peg.

Lost Property: Please help us to look after your children's clothing and bags by labelling all items.

Communication: If you need to speak to us about anything, do find us for a brief chat in the playground before the start of the day, or after school at 3:30pm. For a longer conversation, please email us to make an appointment to meet.

Kate: kate@highgate-pri.haringey.sch.uk Lorraine: lgooday.309@lgflmail.org Tom: tbhanji.309@lgflmail.org

Most of our official communication is now paperless and Parentmail is sent out via the Office by email or text. Do please let us know if you have any special circumstances (e.g. need paper copies, or copies sent to two different households).



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We're really excited about the year ahead with your wonderful children. We are so grateful for, and rely on your support, so please do let us know if you would like to join us for Forest School sessions, on trips, to help with cookery or art projects or to read a story at the end of the day. You could also help by providing herbs, flowers or other 'ingredients' or utensils for the Nature Kitchen, or help with the maintenance of the pond. Thank you, we can't do it without you!

Many thanks for your support.

With very best wishes,

The Year 1 Team

Kate, Tom, Lorraine, Rachael, Jo and Grace

Autumn 1 Key Dates 2023

Y1 Parent Meeting	Wednesday 13 th September 3pm, IKL
Y1-3 Harvest Assembly	Tuesday 17 th October 9:30
Half Term	Monday 23 rd – Friday 27 th October



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