

# Welcome to Hornbeam Class!

We have been delighted with how well the children are settling back into school. We are looking forward to a jam-packed year ahead and to helping your children to grow in confidence through learning, caring and sharing.

## Curriculum

Leaving Reception behind and moving into Year 1 can feel like a big step, but the children of Hornbeam Class are still learning through play. They will still be exploring, discovering and making plenty of use of the outdoor area. However, over the course of the year, your child's day may be a little more structured than it was in Oak Class, and they may have to sit at a table for a little longer than they are used to, but they will still also be learning in a variety of ways.

This will be their first year of the National Curriculum and, like all year groups, Year 1 has government statutory schemes of learning to follow. There is a Year 1 phonics screening test in June, which helps your child's teacher to identify if your child is secure in sounding out and blending graphemes. It also detects if they can read phonically decodable words. Don't be worried about this test. We will be assessing your child regularly and will have identified any areas they need to focus on well before the test date. We will provide further information about this nearer the time.

Your child will be learning through a variety of topics and stories this year, which makes lessons relevant and exciting. They will plan and write their own stories, design posters and leaflets. They will learn to write in more complex sentence and to use ambitious language – all while improving their handwriting!

Maths lessons in Year 1 tend to be very hands-on, making use of lots of practical resources. At woodcote we follow the government approved 'White Rose' which is an organisation which supports the teaching and learning of maths and provides a sequence of lessons. Initially children will be using numbers within 20 they will learn to use number lines, 10s frames and 100 squares to help with calculating and place value. Before advancing onto numbers up to 100 where there will learn to count forwards, backwards, in 2s, 5s, 10s and they will double and halve. Again, always learning in a fun and engaging way.

Beyond literacy and numeracy there are a wide range of topics covered in Year 1 and your child will undoubtedly have their personal favourites. Some of the Year 1 activities include:

- Experiments (Science) and product design (DT)
- Learning about the past (History) and about the local area we live in (Geography)
- Dancing, playing games and using gym apparatus (PE)
- Painting, drawing and more creative tasks (Art)
- Learning how to create documents, create digital art as well as programme a small robot.

They will also develop their social skills and empathy for each other during PSHE and RE. Year 1 is an important year for your child's increasing independence. The days are so varied and busy, the hours just fly by!

## PE

PE will be taking place on Thursday and Friday. However, kit needs to be in school all week as plans do change. Kit needs to be named and in a bag your child can leave at school, so they don't have to carry it to school every day. For PE earrings **must be removed** or covered with a plaster or tape to prevent injuries.

Over the year we will be working on coordination, agility and creativity in games, gymnastics, and dance.

## Personal belongings

Please please please can everything that your child brings to school have their name on so that in the event it goes astray we can make every effort to return it to them. We have spoken to the children about toys from home being precious and that they are best left at home to avoid them being lost.

## Birthdays

We are starting a new celebration in Hornbeam Class for birthday's this year. On your child's birthday we invite them not just to come to school in home clothes but to bring in a story to share. This can be their favourite story or a new one if someone needs present inspiration! We will then make time to share this during the day.

Reading with a familiar adult builds self-esteem, vocabulary, feeds imagination and even improves their sleep patterns! Giving a child time and full attention when reading with them tells them they matter.

We will be sending home a monster phonics book each week to be read regularly during the evenings, children will read the same book multiple times throughout the week to build fluency. Re-reading a book helps the children to build their sight vocabulary and helps them read for meaning. Please complete your child's reading diary after each time they read at home, just a quick comment is sufficient. Books will not be changed every day but please ensure that books are in school each day so staff can also read with your child.

We will also be sending home other books to share and build different skills. These other books might be a story to read to your child or a book that they are able to read to you to develop reading for pleasure and ensuring they read a breadth of books.

We also recommend the local library as a great source of books for the children to start to develop their own preference in books.

School can be exhausting for a child in Year 1. They are learning so many new things at school and may also be starting to join activities and teams after school as well, such as swimming or Rainbows.

If you do want to do more at home than reading, we recommended visiting the monster phonics app which is available on most tablets and compliments the phonics programme we follow at school. As the term moves on your child will also receive a unique log in code to a maths program called 'Numbots' which relates to many maths skills your child will learn throughout the year. Homework will be set later in term one once the children have established good routines at school and are happy with their learning, but do not forget that asking your child to write an email to their auntie, count out the cutlery for dinner or helping at home with cooking all add to your child's learning.

## Communication

We love to hear news about your child, and this includes when things aren't going so well. We are here to help, and it is useful to know if they have had a bad night's sleep or circumstances at home have changed. Drop off is a tricky time to chat beyond a quick message but if you would like to talk with one of us, please catch us at the end of the day or contact the school office and we will be happy to help.

## Celebrating Success

Every Friday, we hold a sharing assembly for the whole school, whilst this is an opportunity for each class to share what they have learnt across the week we also like to celebrate individuals own successes. This can be in the form of certificates, trophies, medals anything that is a success for your child. Mrs Hunt has a special box in her office where these can be dropped off before a Friday's assembly.

## Volunteers

Over the course of the year, we will need help with various activities including trips, gardening, reading and events. If you can help on a regular basis or as a one off, please let us know.

We would also love to hear from your if you have an area of expertise that you could share with the children such as, but not limited to: healthcare professionals to support with our learning on bodies and health, sports and music enthusiasts to help with broadening horizons, artists to share their skills and scientists to bring the curriculum to life.

Once again thank you for a great start to the year we are looking forward to working with you and your child this year.

The Hornbeam Team

Mr Neal, Mrs Wibberley and Mrs Ward.