Tuesday 6th September 2022

Dear Parent / Carer / Guardians,

Welcome to Year 1!

We hope that you have had a lovely summer holiday and feel refreashed and ready for a fun and exciting first term in Year One. Over the holidays the staff in Year One have been busy planning lots of new activities and adventures to make our first term together special and one to remember.

We understand that the transition into Year One from Reception is a big one. In Reception class the children have had a lot of freedom to chose their preferred method of learning and there is outdoor learning all year round. For this reason the transition into Year One can be a difficult one for some children. At Blakehill we aim to make this transition as smooth as possible. Although the learning environment will appear a lot smaller and more formal we will still give all children the chance to learn using provision for part of their day until they are ready to access formal learning for a whole day. Just like in Reception we will take into account the needs of each individual child and support them with this transition. You might find that your child is quite tired during the first few weeks of Year One. This is completely normal as it is a big change for them. If you have any concerns at all during this time please don’t hesitate in talking to a member of the team at the door.

Each half term we will send out a letter like this one to give you all of the information you will need to support your child at home. The information can also be found on our school website. On the school website there will be a link to classes. Within this link there will be an option to select either 1D or 1W. When you have selected your class you will be able to see all the information you need and also photographs and information about our recent learning in school. Many children come home and tell you that they have done nothing in school and so by looking on the website you may feel reassured that we are actually pretty busy each day.

**Curriculum**

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| ***Subject*** | ***Unit*** |
| Mathematics | Number: Place Value ( within 10 )  Number: Addition and Subtraction ( within 10 )  Geometry: Shape  Number: Place Value ( within 20 |
| English | Stories with familiar settings – The Tiger who came to tea  Stories with predictable patterned language- The Bad tempered Ladybird  Labels, Lists and Captions  Poetry- Using the Senses |
| Science | Animals, including Humans  Parts of Animals |
| History | Significant People and Places in our own locality  Local History  What was important in Idle?  Jowett Cars |
| Geography | Geographical Skills and Fieldwork  Use simple compass directions and locational and directional language to describe the location of features and routes on a map.  Use simple fieldwork and observational Skills  (Local Walk ) |
| Music | Charanga music scheme |
| Computing | Technology around us |
| Art | Drawing  Self portraits |
| DT | Design/Make/Evaluate  (Mechanisms)  Moving Pictures |
| PSHE | Me and my Relationships  Why we have Classroom rules  Thinking about feelings  Our feelings  Feelings and bodies  Our special people balloons  Good Friends  How are you listening? |
| RE | Myself  Reflect on the belief that each person is special and unique. Know that we all belong to different groups, Reflect on identity and belonging |
| PE | Games |

**Coming to school in the morning**

School begins at 8.45am every morning. It is really important that children arrive on time as learning begins straight away. We make the most of every moment in school and so being at school on time is really important.

When you leave your child with us at the door, they will come in, hang up their coat and empty their own book bag. We try to encourage children in Year One to be as independent as possible. If they have a water bottle or fruit snack we ask them to leave it in their own pigeon hole above their peg. If they have a PE kit or lunch box this will also be left on their peg. I know it is really tempting to help them (especially in the first few weeks) but they can do this on their own with just a few verbal reminders.  They then come straight through into the classroom and will complete a morning activity before joining me on the carpet for register and morning exercises.

**Leaving School at the end of the day**

We finish school at 3.15pm each day. We begin to get children ready for home time at 3pm. At this time children will collect their own book bag, water bottle and coat. We will then finish our day with a story. At the start of the year it might take us some time to get to know you all so please be patient with us. We want to make sure that all children get safely to the correct parents. Hopefully we will get faster as the year goes on.

**PE**

Children in Year One do PE lessons every Tuesday and every Thursday. They no longer need to come to school dressed for PE. Please can you ensure that they have their PE kit now in school for these days. Their kit needs to be hung on their peg whilst they are in school and should be clearly named as they can easily get muddled when the children are changing. Children need to have an outdoor and indoor PE kit in school. In winter we will still be having some PE lessons outside unless the weather is unsafe. It can be quite cold out their so an outdoor PE kit is really important.

**Homework Projects**

We will be encouraging children to continue their learning from school at home with you. Every Half term we will be asking you to work together at home with your child to complete your own project linked with the learning that we are doing in class. For our first half term we will be learning about 'ourselves' in science. We would like you to complete a project of the same title at home.

I am hoping that you will be able to be creative with your learning. It can be written work although I would love to see some alternative ideas. Maybe you could try making a model, drawing, painting, making your own movie. Perhaps you have a better idea? I'm so excited to see what you can create.

**Word Mountains**

In Year One children complete weekly word mountain challenges. Each word mountain shows a set of spellings for your child to learn. Every Friday children in Year One are tested on their word mountain.

If they spell each word correctly they will move on to the next word mountain.

Please can you help your child by practising their word mountain spellings at home each week so that they are confident to have a go on Friday.

**High Frequency Words**

Children will be given a set of high frequency words in an envelope to practise at home. These are words they need to be able to read on sight. They should not need to sound these words out. If they accurately read the full set when tested at school they will then move up to the next set. If your child completes all the given high frequency words then they will be given an alternative weekly home challenge to complete. Children will be given a weekly test day for high frequency words. These will be tested by Mrs Lister and Miss Hart.

**KIRFs**

KIRFs stands for Key Instant Recall Facts. We do these in maths lessons. Usually we practise them at the the beginning of a lesson. Each half term children will be given a KIRF to focus on. We will send home sheets to support you to practise this KIRF at home. At the end of the half term we will test each child to assess their understanding and confidence.

**Uniform**

At Blakehill we ask that all children come to school wearing the correct uniform daily. In colder weather remember that children will still play outside. This means that they will need a warm, waterproof coat to protect them against the elements. If it is snowy or icy it would be sensible to send children with a pair of wellies to change into for when they are outside. In very cold weather please send your child with a warm hat and gloves too.

When the weather is hot we ask that all children have sun cream applied before school and bring a suitable sun hat for play time.

**Reading Café**

In Year One we have a morning Reading Café on Thursday morning at 8.30 am until 8.45 am. This is an opportunity for you to come into school with your child and spend some time reading with them in the classroom. The Reading Café will not take place in the first few weeks of school but a message will be sent to you when we begin. An update will also be added to the website.

If you have any questions or concerns please come and speak to one of the team. We are looking forwards to getting to know you all this year.

Kind regards

**The Year 1 Team**

Miss Dickinson , Mrs Watts, Mrs Lister, Miss Hart and Mrs Head