



YEAR 1/2 NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2026



Dear Parents and Carers

A very warm welcome back to school! I hope that you have had a restful summer. It has been lovely to see the children and hear all about what they have been doing over the holidays. We are looking forward to a busy and exciting term ahead in Year 1!

Mrs Swift
Hazel Class

Miss Cridland and Mrs Keith
Beech Class

Topics

This term, our topics will be '**Where we Live**' (a study of our local geography) and '**Our Place in the Past**' (the history of our locality). Where appropriate, subjects will be taught linked to these topics. Please see the topic web for more detailed information.

Homework

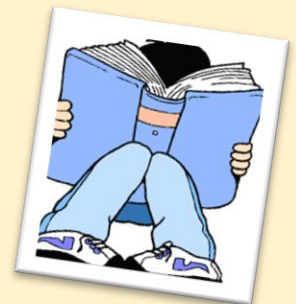
Homework tasks will be assigned **on Google Classroom** each **Thursday** to be completed and handed in by the following **Tuesday**. If you are unable to log into your child's Google Classroom account, please let us know. Homework tasks should be completed in your child's yellow homework book with any additional sheets stuck in. Children will be tested on their homework spellings on the following Friday. Tests will be completed in a spelling test book that will be sent home so that you can see your child's results. Please keep this book in your child's book bag.

Reading Books

Book change day: WEDNESDAY

Please bring reading books to school every day.

We will only change books weekly if they have been read twice, so **please record your child's home reading clearly**, using the date, book title and pages read. For example, 3.9.26 Under the Sea p1-8
4.9.26 Under the Sea p9-end



To keep the books in the best possible condition and to enable us to change books quickly, reading books and reading records will be given out to children in a sturdy, named plastic wallet. Please keep all reading books in the wallet. If children require additional reading materials between book change days, these can be provided.

Children will receive their first reading books to take home as soon as we have completed the first phonics assessment. Children's reading books will be closely aligned to the phonics being taught in school and their personal level of fluency. This may mean that some children bring home books from different levels or targeting specific sounds.

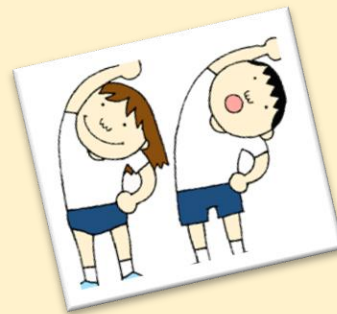
We will routinely assess children's phonetic decoding, fluency and comprehension skills to determine when they are ready to move to the next book band in line with the Rocket Phonics progression guidance, but please do contact us if you have any queries regarding your child's reading progress. As well as daily phonics sessions, all children take part in guided reading sessions to learn specific reading skills each week.

PE Sessions

Year 1: Monday pm (Mrs Smart), Friday am (Mrs Swift)

Year 2: Thursday pm, Friday pm (Miss Cridland)

This year pupils can come into school dressed in their PE kits. **No earrings on P.E. days please.** Please ensure that children also have suitable outdoor kit and footwear for colder weather.



Book Bags

Children should bring their school bag in **every day**.

Children do not need to bring a pencil case to school in KS1.

Please provide a named water bottle (containing only water) and a healthy snack for morning break; fruit will also be available as an additional snack option and, if you wish to order milk for your child, please speak to the office for further details regarding payment.

We would appreciate it if water bottles were not put in book bags, as reading books are easily damaged by spills and leaks and single books cannot be easily replaced. **Lost or damaged reading books will be charged at a cost of £5 per book.**

Jewellery and Toys

We have a **no jewellery** expectation in school. Children are only allowed to wear studs in their ears in school.

No toys (including trading cards) in school please, unless this has been agreed for a specific reason with your child's class teacher.

Lost Property

Please make sure that all items of clothing including shoes/boots, hats, scarves and gloves are **named** before they are brought into school so that they can be quickly returned if misplaced.

Communication

During term-time, we are available for short conversations at the classroom door at the start and end of the day. If you require a longer conversation, please arrange a meeting with me at a mutually convenient time.

I can be contacted by e-mail from Monday – Friday between 8.00 – 17.30. As per Anglian Learning policy, e-mail acknowledgements are guaranteed within two working days and a response within five working days. We will of course endeavour to respond as promptly as possible. Please note that we may not always be able to read or respond to e-mails during the school day however; **if a message is urgent, please contact the school office by telephone.**

Please note that teaching staff may not always be in school during their release-time, although we can be contacted via e-mail during this time.

Hazel Class Information

Class Teacher: Mrs Swift (Assistant Headteacher: FS/KS1)

Teaching Assistants: Mrs Paul, Mrs Missing

Cover Teachers: Mrs Smart (Monday pm, all day Tuesday)

Contact: hsswift@bottishamprimary.org

Beech Class Information

Class Teachers: Mrs Keith (Monday – Wednesday am), Miss Cridland (Wednesday pm – Friday)

Teaching Assistants: Mrs Boyce, Mrs Robinson

Contact: ecridland@bottishamprimary.org, akeith@bottishamprimary.org

Autumn Term Dates for Your Diary (further details to follow)

Parent Consultations: Tuesday 29th September, Thursday 1st October

Autumn half-term break: Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October

Professional Training Day (school closed to pupils): Monday 2nd November

KS1 Nativity productions: Tuesday 8th and Wednesday 9th December 2.15pm

End of term: Friday 18th December