Class 1 Information Letter - September 2026

Welcome to Class 1! It is lovely to see so many familiar faces again and we would like to warmly welcome all our new starters too. There are so many things to remember when starting school and we hope this helps to answer any questions you may have.

Planners



This week your child will have brought home their new planner. Your child's planner is checked daily by Mrs Bradley or Mrs Marshall and is the best way to communicate with us on a day-to-day basis. We will write your child's reading book and comments in their planners too.



Water, Snacks and Milk

We encourage children to bring their own, named bottle of water into school every day and these will be returned home each day to be cleaned. All children under the age of 5 are eligible for the free milk scheme. If you would like your child to still receive milk once they turn 5, you can pay for this by contacting Mrs Ratcliffe in the school office. Your child will have access to fresh drinking water throughout the day and a fruit or vegetable snack every morning.

School Reading Books



Reading is a key skill to develop in Class 1. We follow the Little Wandle phonics scheme to teach reading. When learning to read, your child may take home pre-reader books or sound cards. Your child should be reading everyday outside of school (this could be their school reading book or by sharing a bedtime story or library book etc.) You will also find a phonics folder in your child's book bag to help you in supporting your child's reading and writing. When your child reads at home, please leave a short note or tick in their planner so that we can keep a record of this. Children are given 1 raffle ticket for reading 3 times a week at home and 2 tickets for reading 5 times. Just before the holidays, Mrs Dobbs will pick 2 random tickets out and the winners get to choose a book to keep. We hope that this helps to motivate the children into reading for pleasure.



PE

This year, we have PE lessons on Monday and Friday afternoons. We will aim to be outside if the weather allows for this. Your child needs to arrive at school wearing a full, **named** PE kit on these days. All jewellery and watches must be removed. If your child cannot remove their own earrings, these need to be removed before they come to school.

How can I help?



We have an 'open door' policy at Dacre Braithwaite, so please do let us know if you any questions or would like some ideas to support your child's learning. We are always keen to hear from family members who can support our learning... do you have some artistic skills? Would you be willing to bring in some lambs in the Spring to meet Class 1? We would love to hear from you!

Bags



Due to our limited storage space in school, please note that school book bags (or equivalent size/shape) must be used. If children wish, they are allowed 1 keyring on their book bags too. **Please ensure these bags display your child's name clearly.**

Home Time



At home time, Class 1 line up outside school at the top playground. It is important that your child only goes to their grown-up once a member of staff has sent them. This is to ensure every child's safety. Thank you for helping your child to remember this! If there is to be a change to your child's usual home time arrangement, please let us know via the school office or writing a note in their planner.

Forest School



Class 1 have Forest School sessions in our woodland area every Wednesday afternoon. A separate letter for information about Forest School kits. Forest School kits will be sent home whenever they need a wash!

Homework and Show & Tell



All children will have the opportunity to take part in Show & Tell on Fridays. We ask that the item children bring in is small enough to fit into their book bag and is something that is important to them. We typically alternate between a house team each week to take part in Show & Tell. We will put a message in your child's planner if they are due to share in the upcoming week, but please do keep uploading pictures/videos and more at any time and we will try to fit these in whenever we can.

EYFS and Year 1 - Children in Class 1 are not expected to complete any homework other than regular reading and practising their phonics sheet, which will come home on a Friday. Later in the school year, we may occasionally suggest or set extra learning opportunities for children in Year 1. These will be in the Class 1 section of the weekly newsletter. These activities are not compulsory, so please don't feel pressurised to complete all of them. Any EYFS learning experiences from home that you would like to share with the teachers can be uploaded as an 'At Home' observation on Learning Journals. *** Parents of Year 1 pupils, please note that Learning Journals in no longer available for you to use. ***

Class 1 and our Curriculum



We will soon be hosting several information evenings for parents and carers of all children in Class 1 (). We will be discussing the Little Wandle Phonic Scheme and NCETM Mastering Number. For parents of new starters, we recommend you try to attend both sessions so that you can maximise the support you offer your child. Further details of the information evenings will be sent home nearer the time.

Contact



If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact us on admin@dacreb.co.uk and we will either email you back or write in your child's planner.