



# Welcome to Year 1



Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to welcome you to our Year 1 class named Sparkling Suns. I hope that your child enjoys the new challenges and approaches to learning that Year 1 has to offer. We are excited to be starting our new topic 'Once Upon a Time' and are sure to have great fun learning together.

## Reading



On **Friday** your child will bring home their book bag and the book will be for reading at home.

**Please sign** the reading diary to confirm that your child has read at home, as books will only be changed if the record has been signed. Also you, or whoever reads with your child, are welcome to record any comments about your child's reading. I am happy to send additional books as requested. Children's reading levels will be reviewed in September and a coloured book-band will be allocated, which may be different to their previous colour band.

**Children may receive the same book twice and this is to consolidate comprehension and word recognition skills.**

I will hear your child read in school each week on a one to one basis so please return the book bag and its contents every **Wednesday**.

**It is vital that your child reads as much as possible at home, as well as in school, to make good progress.**



## Homework

Homework this term will go out on a **Friday** and please return it the following **Wednesday**. Homework this term will focus mainly on key skills such as spelling, reading and number work. If a project is sent home to be completed e.g. for history, this will be optional and a much longer time scale will be given to ensure it is manageable for pupils and families.

Your support with homework is appreciated.

## Spelling



During this half term spellings will be focused on revising the crucial high frequency words before moving onto the more challenging Year 1 spellings. As well as providing a list to learn at home, the key spellings will be continually reinforced in class, as we have found that often children learn spellings for the test, but do not use the correct spelling in independent writing tasks. We will have a spelling test every **Friday**, we recommend spending a little time practising each day to help your child to remember the spellings.

As an added challenge, ask your child to write each spelling in an interesting sentence.



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### PE

Year 1's PE day is **Thursday**. Please ensure your child has a PE kit in school at all times with all items clearly labelled.

Please note earrings must be removed for PE lessons. Also, for the continued health and safety of our pupils, we are aiming to be an 'earring free' school. Your support in this is greatly appreciated.

### Can I help?

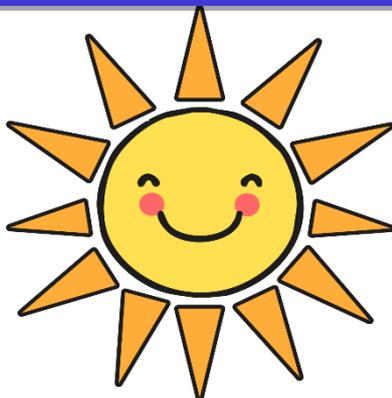
We understand that this year may be challenging and daunting for pupils as they become used to new hygiene routines and different classroom layouts. Please rest assured that I will do everything to ensure that your children find school a safe, fun and welcome environment in Year 1.

If you have **any** concerns or questions about your child's progress or anything else, please feel free to email or ring the school to contact me. I am always happy to help and want to work with you to ensure your child becomes the best they can be this year.



### Phonics

Children learn their phonics at school regularly and we follow the 'Letters and Sounds' programme. You can find our Helpful Phonics Guide here to support at home: <http://www.bournmoor.durham.sch.uk/our-curriculum/helpful-phonics-guide-for-parents/> As the term progresses, children will receive a 'Letters and Sounds' phonics book that will come home with them every **Friday**. These are used to help children practice their phonics sounds at home. Please bring these in with children's homework on a **Wednesday**.



**Thank you for your support.**

**Miss Hartley**