



2nd September 2022

Year 1 – Welcome!

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back and welcome to what is going to be a brilliant year in Year 1 – Squirrel class! I am thrilled to be in Year 1 again and cannot wait to get to know a fantastic group of children and parents. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to Year 1 and familiarise you with the changes that Year 1 brings and the new routines this year.

Working with the children this year will be myself and Mrs Carter, who is our Teaching Assistant. I will be teaching the class every day and Mrs Evans will be teaching the class on a Wednesday afternoon when I have my planning time. Mrs Carter will be working every morning and on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday afternoon.

Drop off and collection times

In Year 1, your child will **arrive** to school for an **8.40am** start. You will need to drop off your child at the **Year 1 external classroom door**. The children will have morning activities to complete so it is vital they are on time. Your child will be picked up at **3:30pm** from the **barn doors on the playground**.

PE and uniform

This half term, the children will have PE on **Tuesday** and **Friday**. The children will need to come to school in their PE kits on the days that they have PE and remain in their PE kits for the rest of the school day. On PE days, long hair should be tied back and earrings must be removed before school if children are unable to do this themselves.

In Year 1, there are a few changes to the uniform policy. Your child will be required to wear a shirt and a tie instead of a polo t-shirt. Please make sure that all uniform is clearly named as it is the children's responsibility to look after their items.

Tapestry and Twitter

Unlike in Foundation, in Year 1 and beyond we **do not** use Tapestry. However, I tweet frequently so you can see what your child has been up to at school. Our twitter is @StanwickP, look out for the squirrel emoji!



Reading

Your child will be bringing home a reading book. You may have noticed last year, children's ability in reading can change very quickly so we will be making sure over the next few weeks every child has the correct book for their present ability. We will change reading books on a **Monday** and a **Thursday**.

Your child will also be in a guided reading group session 2-3 times a week. These sessions will allow your child to read a decodable book that links directly to the sounds they know. Just like in Foundation, your child will have a physical reading book and an e-book. E-books are assigned every week.

Homework and Show and Tell

In addition to reading, your child will have weekly spellings to complete. Your child will be tested on their **weekly spellings** on a **Monday** and a new list of spellings will be given out ready for the next week.

At the beginning of each half-term, the children will receive a grid of topic-based homework activities. Your child can choose whatever task they would like to do from the sheet each week. Your child will have time to show their fantastic work to the rest of the class during show and tell should they wish to. Their work will then be displayed on the class wow wall for the week!

Show and tell will take place every **Monday afternoon**. Your child may bring in any homework they have completed from the **topic-based task sheet**, an exciting certificate or award that they may have been presented with outside of school. Anything for show and tell can also be emailed to me at iholmes@stanwickprimary.org.uk.

Transition from Foundation to Year 1: Rainbow Challenges and Learning Journals

The transition from Foundation to Year 1 is incredibly important and it is key that it is done right. Our aim is to ensure that the children experience a smooth transition from the Foundation Stage to Key Stage One. The Year 1 curriculum builds upon and extends the experiences that children have had in Foundation. Learning through play will continue to be an important part of the school day, and the children will gradually be eased into more formal learning in the mornings as the year goes on so that they remain motivated, enthused and eager learners. At Stanwick, we are passionate about child-initiated learning through play. In Year 1 this takes place through continuous provision, known as independent learning time and rainbow challenges.



The rainbow challenges help to promote independence by allowing the children to complete challenges linked to their previous learning.

Each area has a colour:

Marvellous Maths is RED

Funky Phonics is ORANGE

Investigation Station (Topic) is YELLOW

Creative Studio is GREEN

Finger Gym (Fine Motor) is BLUE

Each week the children will have to complete a challenge task from each of the provision areas. The children will have their own learning journals where they can stick in their challenge sheets and photos of their creations. When the children have completed all the tasks, they receive a certificate signed by Mrs Neild during our rainbow disco celebration on a Thursday.

Alongside this, the children will also have access to the following areas in the afternoons: role play, sand/water, construction and blocks, small world play and an outdoor area. Having access to these areas is extremely important for the children's learning, well-being and for helping them in the vital transition from Foundation to Year 1.

Water and book bags

Please can your child bring in a filled named water bottle every day. They have access to this throughout the day and we do our best to encourage them to drink regularly. Can your child also have their named book bag with them each day with their reading book and reading record.

I am looking forward to an exciting year with an amazing group of children. Communication between home and school is vital in ensuring your child has the best support possible. I am keen for you to feel able to talk to me about any concerns or queries you have. I am available on my email which is: IHolmes@stanwickprimary.org.uk or feel free to talk to me after school.

Kind regards,

Miss Holmes
Y1 Class Teacher