



Year 1 Booklet

Welcome to Year 1 at Prior Heath

*The information in this booklet
is provided so that we can work together
to ensure a happy and fulfilling
year for your child.*

2023/24

The National Curriculum

All Year 1 children will study the following subjects:

English

Mathematics

Science

Art

Computing

Design Technology

Geography

History

Music

Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education

Physical Education

Religious Education

English

Reading

The children are encouraged to develop their reading skills using a core scheme and a variety of supplementary books. We hear them group read on a regular basis and also encourage them to read to each other and to other adults. We draw attention to non-fiction books so that they may begin to research their own topic work. The main aim is to engage the children in books and develop a love of literature.



How you can help

1. It is vital that all children, regardless of their phonic book level, read aloud frequently at home to develop their fluency and comprehension. Please encourage them to read to you **each night**. This regular practise will help them to improve their reading skills. **Please record in the reading records when your child reads to you as we need to keep a record of each child's weekly reading.**
2. The phonic reading books allow the children to read independently by applying their phonics that they are secure in and to recognise familiar words. The shared library books allow you to read together, discuss the story and its meaning. During reading, stop at a convenient point in the story and ask your child to tell you what has happened and predict what might happen next. Please help them to understand why events have happened.
3. Remind your child to return their reading record to their book bag after reading at home so that it can also be used in school.

Writing

We encourage the children to write freely whilst gradually introducing spelling structure and early punctuation rules. Each week the children will be sent home with the key words, topic or phonics work that has been taught in the weekly letter.

How you can help

Promote the use of pencils and paper. Encourage your child to make booklets, compile lists, label some drawings and write letters. This will help them to feel happy and free to put their ideas down onto paper.

Phonics

Phonics, the learning of phonemes (sounds) is taught daily through our scheme 'Unlocking letters and sounds'. The children use these phonic skills to decode words to support their reading and spelling.

All Year 1 children take part in a Phonics Screening Check where a selection of real and nonsense words has to be read out loud. Your child will complete this in June 2024.

How you can help

- Play “**I spy**”, using letter names as well as sounds.
- Play with magnetic letters, using some of the two grapheme (letter) combinations:

r-ai-n = rain - blending for reading
rain = r-ai-n - segmenting for spelling

b-oa-t = boat - blending for reading
boat = b-oa-t - segmenting for spelling

h-ur-t = hurt - blending for reading
hurt = h-ur-t - segmenting for spelling

Please see the school website for end of Year One expectations for English.



Handwriting

Letter formation and handwriting are practised regularly. We use a printed style that the children started using in Reception.

If children are ready, they will be introduced to the cursive style at the end of Year 1.

How you can help

Ensure that your child holds the pencil correctly between the thumb and first fingers, resting on the middle finger and that the hand is relaxed.

Speaking and Listening

We place great importance on Speaking and Listening. It plays a vital part in the children's development of language. We encourage them to listen carefully and speak clearly, expressing their thoughts in whole phrases, in order that they develop into good speakers and listeners. We also provide opportunities for role play, drama activities and sharing a show and tell in class.

How you can help

Give your child time to express their opinions clearly and discuss home and school events. Make time to talk to your child and for them to have talk time too.

Mathematics

Our aim is to ensure that children have a sound understanding of mathematics and are confident in this subject. Areas of study include:

- ❖ counting and number relationships
- ❖ number facts
- ❖ calculations
- ❖ measures, shape and space



Children are encouraged to use their maths knowledge when approaching problem solving and investigation activities as well as using maths in every day contexts.

The teaching emphasis will be on mental calculation strategies and the use of these to solve problems. Children will use written recording alongside their practical and oral work to support their developing mental maths skills.

How you can help

Find every opportunity to count, make comparisons and play games. This will encourage enjoyment of mathematical activities and help to build confidence, both vital steps to numeracy. Look for patterns, shapes and sets in everyday experiences at home and on journeys, use real coins and dice. Please see the school website for the end of Year One expectations for mathematics.

Don't forget to look at the weekly letter which details the aspects taught that week and the strategies that are used in school.

Science

The children will be introduced to scientific investigations and will look at a variety of life forms, different materials and changes in the seasons and the weather. We encourage them to look carefully and record their observations using writing and drawings.

How you can help

Encourage your child's natural curiosity and help them to make their own discoveries. Use non-fiction books to find out scientific facts.

Computing

In Year 1 we build upon skills introduced in the Reception year. Whole class demonstrations are possible due to the school having an interactive whiteboard in each classroom and access to Learn Pads and laptops. Over the year, computing work focuses on:

- ❖ Computer Science: understand what algorithms are and create simple programs such as following a route.
- ❖ Information Technology: use technology to create, organise, store, manipulate and retrieve digital content.

- ❖ Digital Literacy: recognise common uses of information technology beyond school and use technology safely and respectfully

In addition, children use programmable toys to develop an understanding of computing and its place in society.

History

History in Year 1 will introduce the children to the concept of the past and how life at home and school has changed by studying our school history, life in Victorian times and the lives of famous people.

How you can help

Talk about your own and your parents'/grandparents' lives. This will give your child the feeling of being an important part of a time line that is continuous yet changing. Help your child to value the past and prepare for the future. Point out and discuss historical features on family outings.

Geography

Initially, we encourage the children to develop a sense of place, using the immediate environment. Gradually, we begin to look at the wider environment outside the school. We introduce the children to simple geographical terms (including physical and human features) and begin to use simple globes and maps.



How you can help

On family outings and holidays, share and discuss maps, sights, photographs and souvenirs with your child. Use geographical terms, e.g. valley, shore, hill, mountain. Discuss weather patterns and changing seasons. Encourage your child to draw maps of places they have visited or routes that they have taken.

Design Technology

We provide opportunities to plan, construct and evaluate various products. Your child will be introduced to different tools and materials with emphasis on their safe use. The children will also have regular opportunities to cook in our new kitchen area.

How you can help

Encourage your child to make things, model making, appropriate construction kits, e.g. Lego, on their own and with siblings or adults. Help them to think about and explore possibilities and understand the benefit of making mistakes.

Art

The use of various materials and methods will enrich your child's artistic experiences. The children will be encouraged to evaluate and appreciate their own, their peers and 'real' artists' work.

How you can help

Provide materials and opportunities for drawing and painting. Discuss and appreciate the results. Bring to your child's attention work by famous artists.

Music

The children will participate in singing activities and play percussion instruments including melodies on a glockenspiel. They will develop rhythmic skills and learn to appreciate music across a variety of genres.

How you can help

Provide opportunities to listen carefully and appreciate different types of music. Enjoy singing at home.



Physical Education

Your child will experience movement, dance, gymnastics and games to form the basis for healthy growth through exercise. Safety considerations are taught and working together cooperatively is encouraged. Supervised activity takes place on the adventure playground on a rota basis, weather permitting.

Children will need to come to school dressed in a school T-shirt, shorts (with tracksuit bottoms/leggings in colder weather), school jumper/cardigan/hoodie and trainers on their PE days. For safety reasons, shorts must be worn for gymnastics. Please keep a pair in school for use during colder weather.

How you can help

- Ball skills, safe play and coordination activities can be practised at home.
- Learning to dress independently is an important skill; please help your child to do this.

For safety reasons, no jewellery may be worn during all PE activities. This includes earrings for pierced ears, which must be removed at home on these days. Long hair will need to be tied back.

Religious Education

In Year 1, the children will be learning about Christianity and Judaism. They will also learn from religion by exploring, reflecting on, and responding to religious beliefs, values and experiences.

How you can help

Help your child to know that the wide variety of religions all teach consideration for others and our world.

Personal, Social, Health & Economic Education (PSHE)

PSHE is taught following the Surrey PSHE Education Guidance. It is a National Curriculum subject which contains the following 6 specialist areas:

- Relationships and Health Education (RHE)
- Emotional Health and Wellbeing
- Staying Safe
- Healthy Eating / Healthy Lifestyles
- Drug Education
- Economic Well-being and Financial Capability

In PSHE the children learn about themselves as developing individuals and as members of their community, building on their own previous experiences. They learn the basic rules and skills for keeping themselves healthy and safe and for behaving well. PSHE provides opportunities for children to develop knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviour which will enable them to become successful learners both within and beyond school.

Relationships and Health Education (RHE) is a compulsory part of our PSHE curriculum. A copy of our RHE policy is available on our school website and parents have an annual opportunity to provide feedback on it. Further information is available under the curriculum tab on our school website.

Home Learning Expectations

Home Learning should provide opportunities for partnership between home and school. Its purpose is to enhance a child's learning.

In Year 1, the expectations are:

- Reading: 10-15 minutes at least four times a week.
Spelling: Check the weekly letter for phonics and spellings.
Maths: Check the weekly letter for the current maths focus.

Each half term a topic overview will be sent home for your information.

Approaches to Teaching and Learning

Our aim is to encourage independence in learning which will help the children to gain confidence in their own abilities and skills. We use a mixture of teaching strategies. We may work with the whole class, in groups or individually. The children use the classroom space independently and outdoor area regularly to support all areas of the curriculum.

We will continue to use 'Tapestry' to share aspects of your child's learning with you, however due to the increased use of book work in Year 1, uploads won't be as regular as they are in Reception. A weekly outline will be sent home with your child giving you an overview of the week. Information about the Year 1 curriculum can also be found in the Curriculum section of the school website: <http://priorheathinfant.co.uk/curriculum/year-1/>

Assessment

Children's work is kept in school for monitoring and assessment purposes. We will contact you if we feel there is any cause for concern at any time. If you are worried about your child's progress, please email the school office: info@prior-heath.surrey.sch.uk, to arrange a telephone call with your child's class teacher to discuss your concern as soon as possible. Our aim is to provide an atmosphere of mutual cooperation which is of benefit to your child and makes for an easy transfer to Year 2.

School Lunches

The Government funds free school lunches for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2. School meals are freshly prepared and cooked on-site by Twelve15, part of Surrey County Council. There are three choices of meal every day: a main (usually meat) option, a vegetarian option and a jacket potato or pasta option. The children choose their meal at morning registration. Therapeutic and religious dietary requirements are supported and considered on completion of a special diets request form which is available from the school office.

We encourage the children to try a little of everything, but they are not made to eat any food that they do not like. We expect them to use their cutlery correctly and to remember table manners. We try to make lunchtime a quiet and civilised social occasion.

We hope that the majority of parents will take up the option of a free school meal for their child. If you would like to discuss this further or you wish to send your child to school with a packed lunch, please contact the office.

Snacks & Milk

Children are encouraged to bring in a named bottle of water to drink throughout the day. The school provides children with a healthy snack (e.g. fruit and vegetables) each day. If your child prefers a specific fruit or vegetable snack, please send this to school with your child.

We have a school milk scheme which is run by Cool Milk. Milk is completely free for all children aged under five and for some children who receive pupil premium funding. It is subsidised for children aged five or older. If you would like your child to receive a carton of semi-skimmed milk every day, simply register at www.coolmilk.com or complete a registration form available from the school office.

Help

We hope that the information we have given you will be helpful. We would be grateful for support in these areas:

1. Please ensure your child arrives on time in the morning as lateness has an effect on children's learning. If a child is late they may miss a crucial introduction to a session which could significantly impact on their learning.
2. **Please name all clothes**, including hats and gloves in winter time. It saves our time and your child's.
3. If you need to change your usual collection arrangements, please notify the office or class teacher by email.

Please remember

- An email or note to notify changes to the end of day collection arrangements.
- School bag and yellow reading record to be in school every day.
- A named water bottle.

Home School Agreement

We would like to take this opportunity to remind parents of our Home School Agreement:

The School

We will:

- Ensure the safeguarding and welfare of all children.
- Provide a high quality learning environment in which all pupils are cared for and valued.
- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all children within the guidelines of the EYFS and National Curriculum.
- Maintain high standards of behaviour, encouraging sensitivity for others and respect for all.
- Keep you informed about general school matters and your child's progress.
- Offer opportunities for you to support the life of the school.
- Inform you about any concerns or problems that affect your child's work or behaviour.
- Contact you in an emergency using given contact details.
- Encourage children to do their best at all times.
- Encourage children to take care of their surroundings and others around them.

Parents/Carers

We will:

- Ensure that our child goes to school regularly and punctually and inform the school promptly when our child is ill.
- Inform the school of any concerns or problems that might affect our child's work or behaviour.
- Support the school's uniform policy by dressing our child in the agreed school uniform.

- Make sure our child arrives for school on time, between 8.40 and 8.50am, and is collected promptly at the end of the school day at 2.50pm.
- Ensure our child is not taken out of school for holidays during term time.
- Attend parents' evenings and discussions about our child's progress.
- Support the school's policies and guidelines on behaviour.
- Support all opportunities for home learning.
- Name all items of school clothing and equipment.
- Provide the school with emergency contacts and keep them updated.

We will encourage our child to:

- Demonstrate our school values of: respect, responsibility, kindness, perseverance and teamwork.
- Speak to a member of staff if something is worrying them.
- Always try their best.

