



Year 1 Information Session 2026

Aims of the session:

- To meet your child's teacher and see their classroom
- To learn more about the Year 1 curriculum – including the following:
 - The structure of the school day
 - Our School Values and Learning Behaviours
 - Our curriculum
 - Reading
 - Enrichment opportunities
 - Home Learning



Welcome to Year 1





Hedgehogs:

Class Teachers:

Miss Yeates (Mon, Tues)
Deputy Head/ Year 1 Leader/
Maths Leader

Miss Jeffery (Wed, Thurs, Fri)
Leader of PE

Learning Support Assistant:
Mrs Jones



Owls:

Class Teachers:

Mrs Ballsom
RE Leader

Learning Support Assistant:
Mrs Potter



Otters:

Class Teacher:

Mrs Hughes
Computing Leader

Learning Support Assistant:
Mrs Howard



School day timings:

- **School starts at: 8.45**
- **Registration: 8.55**
- **Playtime: 10.30-10.50**
- **Lunchtime: 12.10 - 13.10**
- **School finishes at: 15.05**





PE days

Hedgehogs: Mondays and Thursdays

Owls: Wednesdays and Thursdays

Otters: Wednesdays and Thursdays

Please send your child to school in their PE kit



Our ethos:

**Children are at the heart of all that we do;
working together to be the best that we can
be**



Holistic Approach:

- **Safe and happy community** – Time in class to share experiences, thoughts and feelings
- **Wellbeing** – Colour Monster displayed in each class, worry box and Emotions Toolkit
- **Building resilience** – Terrific Trios and Resilience Cape
- **Support from home** - Good breakfast, good sleep, hearing reading, sunhats, waterproof coat each day, water bottles sunscreen etc
- **Relationships** – PSHE lessons
- **Learning Behaviours** – Displayed in classrooms and explicitly taught
- **Engagement** – Visual timetables
- **Inclusive Curriculum** – so that everyone can achieve and thrive
- **Core Skills** - Reading with an adult each week



Holistic Approach:

- This term, children will continue to have the opportunity for **continuous provision**, as they did in Reception. This includes adult led Maths and English activities in groups and 'Must do Missions' to support the learning which the children choose independently and record their learning by taking photos on the tablets.
- Activities included in the '**Must do missions**':
 - Maths
 - English
 - Phonics
 - Science
 - Handwriting
 - Art/Geography/History/ Music



Interventions

- We provide interventions which include pre-teaching and extra practice / support for those who need it
- ***'Keep up not catch up'***
- Interventions will be arranged throughout the academic year in accordance with the needs of the classes/year group: In past academic years we have arranged interventions to support speaking and listening, phonics, reading, writing, handwriting, maths and fine and gross motor skills
- ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant)
- We will make parents aware if their child is taking part in a longer term, regular intervention and advise on how the child can be further supported at home



Topics:

- **Autumn Term 1:**
- Our current focus for Autumn Term 1 is 'Toys'.
- **Topics throughout the year:**
- Senses – including Fireworks and Christmas
- Life as a Victorian
- Castles
- ‘It’s a wonderful world’ – animals and plants
- We will continue to reflect on the topics taught and adapt depending on the children's interests as we get to know them better.



Enrichment

- **Enrichment:**
- Outdoor Learning / Use of the woodland and pond area
- Library Visits
- Whole school community events e.g. Friendship Week and Feeling Good Week
- Visitors
- Workshops e.g. Toy Workshop, Victorian Children, The Junk Orchestra
- Trips – Hever Castle, Reigate Castle grounds
- Special events – Teddy Bears' Picnic, Victorian School Day, Feeling Good Friday
- Special weeks – Friendship Week, Feeling Good Week, Take one Picture Week, Science Week
- Clubs

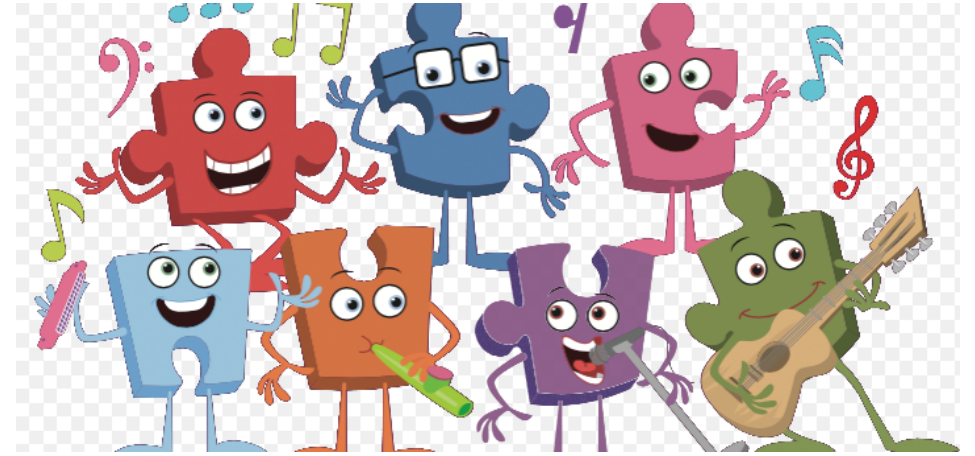


School Fund

- We do ask for an annual contribution per year group to cover the cost of all our enrichment activities except for our school trip which will be paid for separately nearer the time
- More information will follow



PSHE



- We follow a fantastic scheme, 'Jigsaw'. This is part of our PSHE (*Personal, Social, Health Education*) lessons and will help the children to become more reflective and mindful.
- We also have a mindfulness session each day after lunch, to give the children a chance reflect on their feelings and address any concerns or questions.
- At the end of each day we reflect on how we are feeling and consider our 3 Happy Thoughts for the day

Opportunities to develop responsibility

- Each week we choose two Special Helpers who have responsibilities in class such as setting out the bags at the end of the day
- Each class has two Play Leaders who lead games in the playground
- Each week we choose two Eco Warriors who have responsibilities in class such as turning off the lights or checking the recycling bins are being used correctly
- There is a school council and two children from each class are elected to represent their peers



Learning Behaviours:



Persevering Tortoise



Resourceful Chameleon



Reflective Owl



Problem solving Ant



Responsible Penguin



Playing and Exploring Whale

Values:

September	Friendship	Friends know how to look after each other through good and bad times
October	Perseverance	Always doing our best and not giving up
November	Respect	Means valuing myself, other people and our environment
December	Appreciation	Knowing what other people do for us and how to thank them. It means showing that you are thankful
January	Co-operation	Working together and helping one another
February	Patience	Staying calm and waiting until your turn comes around
March	Trust	You can be relied on to do the right thing
April	Caring	Looking after ourselves and others and it means looking after the world around us
May	Tolerance	Is accepting others, even when they make mistakes. Tolerance is appreciating our differences
June	Responsibility	You can be in charge of yourself, other people or things, and you are trusted to do the right thing
July	Courage	Means facing what you might be worried about or afraid of

3 school rules:

Safe

Respectful

Ready



Phonics



- We follow the 'Little Wandle' phonics programme.
- Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised is a complete systematic synthetic phonics programme.
- It provides a complete teaching programme meeting all the expectations of the National Curriculum, the Ofsted Deep Dive into reading.
- It prepares children to go beyond the expectations of the Phonics Screening Check which takes place in the summer term.



Reading

- We ask that you read with your child each day and that this becomes a part of their routine. This has a huge impact on their progress and confidence.
- Your child will be sent home two new books every **Friday**.
- **Please return** your child's reading record and both books every **Thursday** so your child's class teacher can read your comment as well as add their own (bi-weekly comments).
- The books sent home have been chosen to be specifically appropriate for your child's reading level. These books will be with you for a week with the emphasis being on re-reading these books in order to develop fluency and comprehension skills.
- Your child will be given one book that is phonetically decodable. Your child will have already practiced reading this in class so should be able to read it independently at home.
- Your child will also have a book that is non-phonetic (lexical) but appropriate for their reading level. This will have an 'x' marked on the coloured label.



Maths

- We follow the 'White Rose' programme of learning
- All White Rose Maths materials and training are created by specialist maths teachers, and are continually developed in response to national requirements and the many schools, parents, carers and pupils who use them



Maths

- We follow the 'Mastering Number' programme which is designed to secure firm foundations in the development of good number sense so that children will have fluency in calculation and a confidence and flexibility with number.
- Numbots – games to develop number fluency. Your child has a log in and can access this at home.

Library

- Classes visit the library once a week. The children are able to choose a library book to bring home. Please return the library book the following week if your child is ready to change it.

- Classes will visit the library on the following days:

Hedgehogs: Friday

Owls: Tuesday

Otters: Monday

We hope that you and your child will enjoy sharing these books together. Taking the time to read a book together, with the parent modelling good practice, is incredibly powerful in fostering a love of reading.



Home Learning

- **Daily Reading**
- **Practise reading the words at the end of the Learning Letter**
- **Access to Numbots**

- **Dip and Do:**
- The home learning follows a format called 'Dip and Do' - meaning your child has a selection of activities to choose from for their home learning.
- Each half term a range of creative activity ideas will be sent home to be completed. These will range from cooking to craft to writing!



Celebrations:

- We encourage and recognise positive behaviour and 'good choices'
- The children have the opportunity throughout the week to be awarded with golden tokens. These can be given by any member of staff. The class in the year group with the most tokens at the end of the week, will be awarded with the 'class of the week' trophy
- We have a weekly celebration assembly:
 - Each week the Class Teacher will choose two children to receive 'Learning Behaviour Golden Star' certificates which refer to our Learning Behaviours.
 - The children can also nominate their peers to receive 'Golden Star' certificates for demonstrating our school values or for simply being a good friend.
 - Resilience capes



Uniform

- **From Oct half term, winter uniform:**

- Grey pinafore dress, skirt, trousers
- Polo shirt
- Cardigan/jumper/fleece with school logo on
- Grey, white and red socks/tights
- Black shoes
- Please provide children with a suitable warm, waterproof coat every day
- Shoulder length (or longer) hair tied back with appropriate hair bands in school colours (red, green, black, white)
- No jewellery (including earrings), make up or nail varnish
- Coat in every day

- **Children to wear PE kits to school on PE days**

- **Please ensure all uniform is named correctly and clearly**



Early Morning Club and Koosa Kids

- Early Morning Club – book via SCOPAY
- Koosa Kids – after school provision



Extra curricular clubs

- We have a range of clubs to choose from
- Links for booking clubs can be found on the school website

PSA

- Our PSA here at Holmesdale do a fantastic job organising events and activities to raise money for the school
- All children in the school benefit in so many ways from the money they raise.
- Please support the PSA in any way that you can, so they can continue to try and raise funds in a very different way than they are used to
- If you have any ideas or ways the PSA could raise money this academic year, I am sure they would love to hear about it!
- If you are a class representative, please let us know



Newsletter

- A monthly newsletter will be sent out on the last Friday of the month or the last day of each term
- We look forward to sharing all our wonderful learning with you



Learning Letter and Notices

- Each week we send home an overview of the week's learning in our 'Learning Letter'
- At the end of the Learning Letter are a list of words that relate to the sounds we are learning in phonics and also the 'tricky' words
- Please do check Notices for updates / reminders / changes to the upcoming week



Reminders

- **Coat in school every day**
- **Everything** to be clearly and correctly named
- No painting aprons needed (supplied by the school)
- Nothing to be brought into school from home apart from bookbags and water bottles (unless pre-discussed with teacher)
- No show and tell (we will let you know when we do this – linked to topics)
- Water bottles – **transparent and sports cap**
- **One** sensible sized key ring on book bags only
- Analogue watches can be worn
- Snacks are provided by the school
- Snacks for clubs may be brought in (**no nuts or sesame**)



Reminders

- Hair accessories to be functional not fashionable (school colours)
- Long hair must be tied up, especially on PE days
- Jewellery not permitted (if ears are pierced and not taken out they will not be able to take part in PE)
- If your child has just had their ears pierced and their earrings cannot yet be removed, please cover them with plasters
- Sunhats and suncream when the weather is warm
- Please read the **Learning Letter and Notices and Reminders** each week
- Try to 'drop and go' at the gate in the mornings so that we can help settle the children quickly and smoothly into classrooms to begin their early morning work. If you think your child needs more support coming in then please do come and talk to us.



Resources

- Year 1 are currently topping up our resources
- Any donation of small world toys that you do not use at home anymore would be most welcome!
- E.g. superheroes, animals, sea creatures, train track, cars and garages, play mobile, toy houses and characters, farm sets etc



Volunteering in school

- If you are able to volunteer to come into school to hear readers, please let your child's class teacher know
- Adults must complete a full DBS check and take part in a Volunteer Induction / training session, before supporting at school, please contact the school office for advice on how to do this
- We will be going on visits to Hever Castle and Reigate Castle grounds and will require adults to accompany us – we do ask that they hold an up to date DBS check



Contacting your child's class teacher

- We are able to chat to you on the gate in the morning if you have a quick question / message for us
- If you would like to arrange a meeting / phone call to speak to your child's class teacher, please do so by emailing the school office who will forward the email to the relevant member of staff
- Class teachers will respond to all emails within 48 hours, excluding weekends



Building Independence



We want to prepare them for next stage of their school journey

Help to foster independence

Please help them to be independent at home

Take responsibility:

1. For their belongings e.g. end of the day
2. With their learning - getting resources to help them
3. For their environment e.g. tidying/ resetting the classroom for all



Thank you for your support

We look forward to working in partnership with you this year



Questions

If you think of a question after this session, please do ask or email the office – we are always willing to help!

