



Year One Newsletter

Autumn 2 2026



Welcome

A very warm welcome to all of the children and their families to Year 1 and a brand new school year full of exciting opportunities. We have enjoyed a fun packed start to the new school year and we are incredibly proud of how well the children are settling into their new classes and routines. The children are thoroughly enjoying our theme of 'Under the Sea' this week. So far, we have listened to new stories, created lots of sea creatures, written sentences about our focus story The Smiley Shark and sung lots of sea themed songs and shown amazing counting skills counting sea creatures. You should be incredibly proud of your children; they have returned to school full of positivity and eagerness to learn, and we are all so excited for the year ahead. We can't wait to see what the rest of the school year has in store for us!



Reading

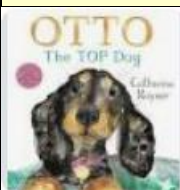


In Year 1 we continue following 'Little Wandle, Letters and Sounds Revised' for phonics and reading. Your child will be sent home with a reading book which matches their phonics level based on the end of year assessments from Reception next week. The children will be reassessed once we have completed the first 5 weeks of Year 1 phonics teaching. Children who are reading Phase 5 set 1 books will be benchmarked in the coming weeks and will bring home a colour banded book, in addition to their Phonics book, to read at home too.

Please ensure your child brings in their reading book every day. Children use their Phonics book in their Guided Reading session and when being heard to read 1:1, it can prove incredibly tricky if they do not have their book to hand as we do not have 'spare' copies. We encourage you to hear your child read their phonics book at least once a day, for 5-10 minutes, to develop their fluency. By the end of the week the children should be able to read most words by sight and with more fluency. Please make a note in their red reading record of when and what they have read and any comments you may have.

It is also helpful to talk about the book including the setting, characters, plot and making predictions. This will support your child's reading comprehension.

Library



**PASSPORT
ADVENTURES**
-READ THE BOOK-



Children in each Year 1 class will be able to visit the library again this year. They will be able to choose 1 book to share with you at home.

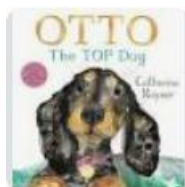
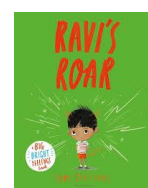
Rayner Class	Friday
Jeffers Class	Wednesday
Percival Class	Friday

Please ensure that your child remembers to bring to school their library book on the relevant day, so they get to change their book and experience a range of brilliant stories we have to offer.

Year 1 Curriculum for the Autumn 1 Term – ‘Past and Present’



We are beginning our journey in Year 1 with our thematic learning of the past and present.



In English, the children are exploring the texts of each of our amazing Year 1 authors: Tom Percival, Oliver Jeffers and Catherine Rayner. The children will learn lots of facts about the different authors and focus on different stories that they have written. We will be developing our Grandma Fantastic skills to help us write simple sentences. We will also be learning about letters using the story *The Day the Crayons Quit* to help us and the children will be writing their own letters.

In Maths, Year 1 children will continue to consolidate their understanding of place value within 10 and begin to delve deeper into addition and subtraction.



In Science, the children will be learning all about themselves, focussing on naming parts of the human body and the 5 senses. This links well to our theme of ‘Being Me’ in our PSHE lessons where we will learn about how special it is to be ourselves.

In History, the children will then explore toys from the modern day and throughout history which is where our trip to the MK Museum will send them into a world of toys from the past.



To link with our theme of ‘Past and Present’, in Design Technology we will learn all about windmills; their purpose and how they are used now. The children will design, create then evaluate a windmill using wheels and axels. Later in the term we will be asking for each child to bring in a cereal box for their windmill, you will receive further communication about when this needs to be sent in.

In Computing, we will be developing our skills on Purple Mash, deepen our understanding of online safety and we will be creating beats as we learn to create music.

This half term in R.E., we are exploring different worldviews and how we learn about them, as well as finding out what Hindus believe about God and why.

PE

PE and Games in Year 1 will take place with Mr Elkington and Miss Bond on the following days:

Rayner Class – Tuesday and Wednesday

Jeffers Class – Monday and Wednesday

Percival Class – Monday and Wednesday

Please ensure that your child comes to school on the days that they have PE wearing their full Priory Rise PE kit, including **black** plimsolls or **all black** trainers. Please be aware that leggings and cycling shorts are **not** school P.E. kit and should **not** be worn. Children with earrings must be able to either take them out or come into school with them already covered for health and safety reasons. [Please ensure all pieces of uniform are clearly labelled and identifiable for the children.](#)

Snacks and Water Bottles

At playtime fruit is provided for all children, but they are welcome to bring in their own fruit or vegetable snack if they wish (please remember that we are a **nut-free** school as we have several children with significant and serious allergies).

We encourage children to drink plenty of water and to bring in a water bottle for them to use during school hours. Please ensure your child can independently open their bottle. They can refill these at school. Again, please ensure these are clearly **labelled** with your child's name. Thank you!

End of Day Dismissal – 3:10pm

Thank you for your patience and understanding when we dismiss the children at the end of the day. Our priority is the safety of the children, and we take great care in ensuring that children leave with their designated adult.

We dismiss the children one at a time, and although this makes the process a little slower at the beginning of the year, it ensures that all children are handed over safely. The process will speed up once we know you all better and the children are in a routine. Please ensure you are at the correct gate at 3:10pm and you make your way to the front of the parent crowd as your child approaches the front of the line.

If another adult is picking up your child, please ensure that the office is informed, and the adult is on Arbor. Thank you for your continued support in making the end of day dismissal a safe success.

Communication

Positive communication between parents and school is vitally important in our Priory Rise community and, with this in mind, we have created a number of effective vehicles where parents are able to positively communicate with the staff team.

Where possible, if parents wish to communicate with the staff team, it is always best to talk to the class teacher at the end of the day, once all children from the class have been dismissed. However, where there needs to be an email, clear and respectful communication helps us work together effectively.

Please follow these guidelines when emailing into our year group email address.



Important to know

- Year group emails are not monitored between 8:20am and 3:30pm while teachers are teaching and preparing lessons. Please do not expect to receive a reply during these times.
- Urgent or time-sensitive matters should always be directed to the school office.

Before you hit 'send', please consider:

- Is it urgent? If so, contact the school office instead of emailing the year group.
- Has the email been written in anger? Pause and consider requesting a phone call or speaking in person to a member of the staff team.
- Is this part of a long email chain? A phone call or face-to-face meeting is usually better.
- Attendance or absence? Email the school office directly.
- Clubs, diary dates, lunches, medication, or music lessons? Contact the school office at office@pr5d.com.
- Behaviour or health concerns? If urgent, call the school office.
- If the issue is not urgent, please email the class teacher to arrange a face-to-face or telephone conversation or speak to the teacher at the end of the school day once all children have been dismissed.

Response times

- Teachers aim to respond to emails within 2 working days. It may be that the initial response is acknowledging receipt of your message
- If the matter requires investigation, a full response may take longer. Please be patient and understanding of staff responsibilities alongside managing email responses.
- For urgent issues, always contact the school office by phone or email.

Our Year One email address is year1@pr5d.com

Trip to MK Museum

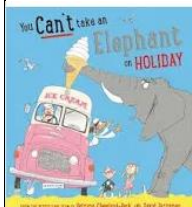
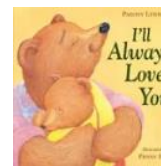
As you are aware as part of our half term topic we will be taking each class to Milton Keynes Museum to take part in the 'Childhood Then and Now' workshop. You have received a second letter with all of the details. Can I please remind you that we need all contributions of £8.50 to be paid by **Friday 2nd October**. If we do not have enough contributions the trips will not be able to take place. Please make payment as soon as possible. As detailed in the letter please email the Year One team if you can support the children on their visit.



Recommended Reads

Miss Bulford recommends 'I will always love you' by Paeony Lewis because:

This is a beautifully reassuring story that conveys the powerful message that love is unconditional. The theme running throughout the book helps children to feel valued, accepted, and secure, reminding them that they are loved no matter what mistakes they make or challenges they face. With the repeated phrases it is also a lovely one for children to join in with."



Miss Harvey recommends 'You Can't Take an Elephant on Holiday!' by Patricia Cleveland-Peck and David Tazzyman because:

It is a very funny book with lots of silly adventures and wonderful pictures. I think you will love this book, it is full of funny animals and exciting surprises. The illustrations are colourful and make the story even more fun to read.

Miss Giles recommends 'The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark' by Jill Tomlinson because:

It is heartwarming tale about Plop, a young owl who is not too sure about the dark. As he meets different people and has new experiences, he begins to see that the dark can be full of wonderful things. It's a gentle, funny story with a positive message about growing in confidence and facing worries

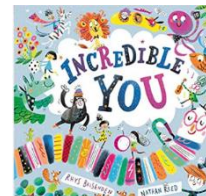


Miss Chessa recommends 'Betty Binoculars' by Suzie Laverly because:

The book is full of wonderful illustrations, and centres on a little girl called Betty who carries her binoculars everywhere to keep herself entertained. The story serves as a reminder of the power of the imagination and of the magic that can be found in the everyday world around us.

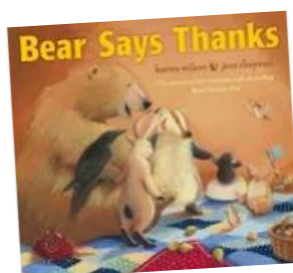
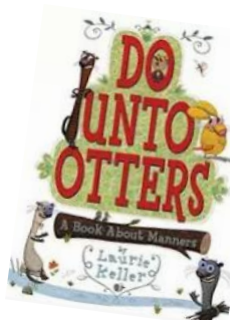
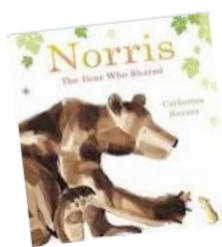
Mrs Benham-Smith recommends 'Incredible You' by R Brisended & N Reed because:

Everyone has occasional bad days, days when we wish we were someone else, and the little boy in this picture book thinks he might like to be some sort of animal when such days come along. We see his dreams of all the exotic animals he could be and all the things he could do if he were one. But then, hold on, what about him? What can he do? Life is full of possibilities, and the most important thing is always to remember to be unique, 'incredible you'.



Our School Values

Our school values for September and October are Respect and Appreciation. Through stories, assemblies and class circle time and everyday interactions the children will explore what it means to show respect for themselves, others, and the world around them. They will also learn the importance of appreciation by recognising and valuing the kindness, efforts, and contributions of others. Some stories that support these values are:



Attendance

We know that mornings can sometimes be busy and that there are occasions when children are genuinely unwell. However, attending school regularly and on time is one of the most important ways we can work together to support your child's learning and wellbeing.

Every school day brings new experiences, friendships and opportunities to learn. When children are in school consistently, they feel more confident, develop strong routines, and build positive relationships with their classmates and teachers. Regular attendance also helps children keep up with their learning, making it easier for them to feel successful and enjoy their time at school.

If your child is finding it difficult to attend school for any reason, please don't hesitate to talk to us. We are here to listen and work with families to provide support wherever we can.



Unpredictable weather

As our British weather it is unpredictable, can I please ask that you send your child to school with a **named** coat every day. Unless it is raining heavily the children will still be going outside during break and lunchtimes to have free times with their friends.

And finally...

Thank you for your patience, kindness and continued support so far! We cannot wait to make memories this year alongside all the fabulous learning of the curriculum that we have planned. Please do speak to your class teacher if you have any questions or queries.

