Thank you to those who attended the Transition to Year 1 meeting last term. We covered a lot of information in quite a short time so please find below a summary of the key points.

Transition from Reception to Year 1
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 Reception. 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 as the year goes on so that they remain motivated, enthused and eager learners. Please don’t hesitate to come and see me if you have any questions or queries. The best time to see me is usually at the end of the day as I am sometimes on my own first thing in the morning.

Reading in Year 1...
Your child’s Reading Book and Reading Record will need to be handed in every day even if the book doesn’t need changing. Any comments made in Reading Records are read daily in school and initialled by the TA or teacher. The main aim is to get your child reading for pleasure. Please support your child’s reading by talking about the book, title, pictures before you start reading. Deliberately talk through the pages using the vocabulary from the text. If they are reluctant to read either take it in turns to read a word or sentence or you can read the book to them ensuring that they can see the words. It should not feel like a test. Your child should be able to read the book with some fluency in order to build confidence hence some books may be sent home twice. If your child occasionally wants to read a different text than the one sent home then this is absolutely fine. In school, children will be read with in a small group weekly. This is not recorded in the Reading Record unless there is something specific to report.

Phonics and Keywords
In order to support reading children need to know the first 100 Keywords on sight (without blending). They will have 5 keywords to learn every week which will be revised in school daily. Phonics will be taught daily in school to enable the children to decode unknown words. The children are taught to blend sounds together. Please watch the video link below to ensure that the correct sounds are being used by your child.
This is a useful website which provides some good advice on supporting reading. The children take a Phonics Screening Test at the end of Year 1 which consists of blending real and nonsense words.

General Reminders...
- The children will be doing PE and ICT on Wednesday afternoon. Please ensure your child wears their PE kit to school and that all items are clearly labelled. They can also wear their PE kit in school after swimming on Fridays.
- Children need to bring in their own water bottle to keep in class which they can access throughout the day and they will change their water regularly. Please make sure your child’s name is written clearly on their water bottle.
- Homework- Maths and Literacy Homework will be handed out on a Friday and returned on Wednesday. This enables enough time for marking and feedback.
- Optional online maths is available by logging on to www.rmeasimaths.com
  User name:  first name followed by first initial of surname eg saml @ burchetts
  Password: bgis
- Parent Helpers - Anyone available to help in class please let me know, ideally Wednesday morning 9.00-10.20 or 11.15-12.00 but other times can be accommodated!

I look forward to getting to know you and working together in Year 1.