Welcome to Year 1

I hope you all had a very enjoyable summer break and enjoyed the nice weather! The children have all settled in very well to their new classroom and are working hard. I am excited to be teaching at Fairfield in Mrs Green’s absence and hope to make your child’s experience of Year 1 a positive one. I look forward to seeing the children grow and develop this year! I hope that this newsletter is informative, please do not hesitate to ask if you have any more questions.

Year 1 Team

Mrs Elliott Class Teacher (until Mrs Green returns from maternity leave at Easter)
Miss Rojahn LSA

Themes for the upcoming term
Listed below are the topics we will cover this term. If you have any books at home or photographs which link to these topics please name them and bring them into school for your child to share with the class. It would be useful to discuss up-coming topics with your child and talk about some of the themes together.

Travelling (including learning about Egypt)
Ourselves
Light and dark
Post office
Christmas
Reading

Pupils will have an independent reading book which your child has already brought home. We are trying to develop pupil’s independence by encouraging them to place their reading diary and book in the reading tray when they need a new book. When you feel your child is ready for a new book please make a comment in their reading diary and encourage your child to hand their book in.

We are introducing a new reading Olympics at Fairfield this year. Children will have a record sheet in their red reading journal which needs to be signed and dated each time your child reads to you at home. We expect children to read at home with an adult at least three times a week. This is linked to in-school rewards your child can earn for their class just for reading. Please make sure your child reads regularly and that you sign the record sheet as proof they have read.

Your child will receive books from the Oxford Reading Tree and books that are more phonic based. Please read with your child daily as this will improve their reading skills but also help with their writing as they may base some of their stories on the books they have read. Try and ask your child questions about their book such as “Why did Kipper feel sad?” “What could happen next in the story?” “What was your favourite part? Why?” This will improve your child's reading comprehension skills and will help you check whether they have understood what they have read aloud to you.

We will hear your child read once a week, individually or as part of a group, and both will form our main Teacher Assessment of your child’s reading. Mrs Elliott or Miss Rojahn will stamp your child's reading journal when they have taken part in a guided reading session.

Homework

There will be Maths and English homework weekly and children will have phonics based spellings to learn. They will be tested on these every Friday. Homework books must be handed in by Thursday – Pupils who meet this deadline will receive a sticker on their chart which goes towards earning a treat.

Phonics Screening

In June all Year 1 pupils are assessed on their ability to read real and nonsense words to identify if they are meeting national expectations. We have daily phonics lessons at school. Nearer the time of the test extra material will be sent home for your child to practise some of the trickier sounds. www.phonicsplay.co.uk is good for playing phonics based games at home. We use this a lot in school.
Routine for arrival/home time

Doors will open at 8.45am. Children will be able to enter the classroom, through the year 1/2 playground and up the steps towards the Year 1 cloakroom; the children will complete some early morning activities. Parents can leave the school as soon as their child has entered the classroom. There will be an adult near the year 1/2 playground gate. We encourage parents and carers not to enter the cloakroom or classroom to encourage independence and also due to a limited amount of space in the cloakroom area.

Home time is 3:15 pm. Children leave through the gate from the year 1/2 outside learning area down the steps towards the playground. Please clearly wave and say your child’s name, just until I learn all the lovely parents and carers faces.

What to bring

PE Bags- drawstring please - not enough room on pegs for rucksacks

Children have a drawer to keep their book bag and snack in.

All pupils need to have a named water bottle, please remember to encourage your child to bring it in every day. Remember children are only allowed water and not juice.

Children can bring in a healthy snack from home to eat outside at break e.g. crisps, cereal bar, biscuit based item etc. Snacks from home need to be separate from lunchboxes. They must be kept in drawers so please send it in book bags or coat pockets in preparation for break time. The children will not be allowed to return to their lunchboxes.

Children can only have milk in Year 1 if they pay through Cool Milk, you will need to register with them and the children will collect their milk at break time.

Toast is 25p a day for a slice or £1.25 for the week. This can be given to Miss Rojahn who will give tuck tokens out at break time.

The children will still be provided with free fruit usually eaten in class and are entitled to a free lunch.
Uniform

Please ensure that your child wears the correct school uniform and that all items are named clearly (See school uniform policy available in the Office/website).

PE

Days are MONDAY and THURSDAY. Please follow the School uniform policy and ensure all kit is named, children should have a white t-shirt, black shorts and jogging bottoms and plimsolls. A spare pair of socks for outdoor PE is a good idea for girls who wear tights, or in case of muddy outside weather.

Reward chart

We have the Sun/Rainbow/Cloud system, which is the same as in the Foundation Stage, but in Year 1 it's related to concept of Golden Time and stickers are given at the end of the day. If children are on the thunder cloud then you will receive a thunder cloud letter and text. Children will also receive stickers for their hard work and for showing kindness to others and when the sticker charts are completed the children will receive a prize!

If you have a message for Mrs Elliott or Miss Rojahn please write a small note for us. Miss Rojahn will be on the playground in the mornings for quick messages. Make an appointment for anything longer please. Mrs Elliott will be happy to see you after school.

E-Safety

We all use the internet frequently these days and it is important that children know how to stay safe when they are online. We talk about this at school and if you could reinforce this at home it would be beneficial. A useful website is www.thinkuknow.co.uk There will be an E-Safety parent meeting at school on Thursday 22nd February 2018 3:30-4:30 providing advice and support.

Home/School Agreement

There will be a home/school agreement, data information sheet and parental consent form that we would like all parents/carers to complete and return back to school at your earliest convenience. Please remember to notify the office of any changes to your personal contact details as and when they arise.

Finally......I am really looking forward to the children having an exciting and fun filled time in Year 1 and cannot wait to see the progress they will make throughout the year! If you have any questions please ask and I look forward to meeting with you all in October.

Mrs Elliott
Your child’s name ___________________ Year group ______________

Did you find this letter helpful? Please help us to improve our communication with parents! Answer the questions below and return to your child’s teacher.

We want to make sure all of the information we send you is relevant and useful. Using your feedback, we can improve...

Please take a moment to fill in the following questions, deleting as appropriate.

Was everything in this information letter easy to read? (Y/N)

Was there anything missing from this newsletter? (Y/N)

Do you feel we send you enough information like this as a school? (Y/N)

Do you feel we send out too much information like this as a school? (Y/N)

Finally, so that we can be sure you are getting all the information you need, is there anything you would like to know more about having read this newsletter? (Please write in the space below)

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Thank you for your time!

All the staff at Fairfield.