



# Swallowfield Primary

Weathercock Close, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes, MK17 8SR, Tel: 01908 582101

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 1! We hope you had a great summer break and we are very much looking forward to seeing all of the children back at school tomorrow. We are excited about the year ahead and have lots to look forward to. The two Year 1 classes are called Birch Class and Pine Class. Mrs Walden and Mrs Gedney will be teaching in Birch Class (Y1GW) and Mrs Ballinger-Carter will be teaching in Pine Class (Y1B). Mrs Ford, who is undertaking her teacher training, will also be teaching in Pine Class.

## Curriculum

In Year 1, the children's learning objectives are taken from the National Curriculum. This is a change from the curriculum that they followed in Reception and brings a different set of expectations. Over the course of the year, our teaching and learning will become slightly more formal and less play based. We will however be making these changes slowly so that the children have time to adjust and our Year 1 curriculum will include lots of opportunities for exploratory and investigative learning, as well as lots of fun along the way. Our learning in the Autumn Term is focused around the theme 'Superheroes'. Please see Google Classroom for our medium term plan which outlines what we will be covering week by week.

We are also very excited that Mrs Davies will be continuing her Forest School lessons. Year 1 will take part in Forest School lessons during the Autumn and Spring term. More information regarding this will be sent home in due course.

## PE

We will continue to have a designated PE day this year. The children will need to come to school dressed in their PE kit on their year group's PE day. Our PE day is a **Friday**. Please therefore send your child to school in their full PE kit every Friday. They do not need to bring any other clothes with them, except for a coat if it is cold or wet. A full PE kit should consist of a royal blue polo shirt and navy-blue shorts, along with navy joggers or leggings and a navy sweatshirt or fleece. Shorts are safer and more practical for some lessons (e.g. gymnastics) so we would suggest that in colder weather the children wear their shorts underneath their jogging bottoms or leggings. Socks and trainers also need to be worn. Due to the expansion of the school and limited use of the school hall, we will be making use of outdoor areas for some of our PE lessons so it is essential that your child is wearing appropriate (and warm in the winter) clothing for PE. **No jewellery should be worn on PE days, including earrings.** Long hair should also be tied back please.

We hope to swim next week, weather permitting. Please ensure that your child brings a swimming kit which includes swimwear (no bikinis please) and a towel in a separate bag to school on their swimming day. Goggles are not permitted. All jewellery needs to be removed please. Both classes will swim on a **Monday**.

## Equipment

Please ensure your child brings a named water bottle to school every day and a morning fruit snack. We ask that the children only have water in their bottles please. They are provided with a piece of fruit in the afternoon. As you are already aware, there are several children at Swallowfield with **severe nut allergies**. With this in mind, please ensure that no food containing nuts is brought into school.

## Homework

A selection of homework tasks will be uploaded termly to Google Classroom. If you choose to complete some of these, please upload photos or videos to your child's Google Classroom account for us to see. During the first term, we will be practising reading and spelling common exception words. Please see the post on Google Classroom for



Head Teacher: Mrs K Brewer NPQH  
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more information. After Christmas, we will be sending home weekly spellings to practise which will be tested every Friday. If you haven't done so already, please ensure you accept the invitation to the children's new Google Classroom.

Home School Library will resume on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September. Please ensure your child's book bag has been returned to school prior to this date. Reading can have such a huge impact on your child's academic progress. We really encourage daily reading at home when possible. Bookbags will need to come into school every **Tuesday** to be changed.

### Going Home Arrangements

If your child is going home with someone else please let us know **prior to pick up**. Without parental consent, we are unable to release your child to anyone else. If your child will be going home with someone other than yourself on a regular basis (grandparents, childminders, after school club etc.), it would also be useful to have this in writing via email. For on the day arrangements, please contact the office when notifying us about pick up because teacher's emails may not be checked until after school. If there are any pre-existing arrangements from last year, please email the relevant class teachers to ensure we have the most up to date information as this is not passed on.

At the end of the day, the children will be released from the wooden gate on the playground, next to the green building. Please line up at the relevant side of the gate and we will dismiss your child to you. This will be clearly signposted.

### Requests

We would be hugely grateful for any of the following resources if you are having a clear out and they are no longer wanted:

- Cushions
- Jenga bricks
- Dominoes
- Scrabble tiles
- Wooden pegs
- Buttons
- Empty cotton reels
- Construction toys (e.g. lego, knex)

### Staff

We are very much looking forward to a successful year together. We have a great team in Year 1 and, alongside the class teachers, we will be supported by Mrs Tkaczuk and Mrs Gilbert. Mrs Hill will also be teaching in Year 1 during the week.

Finally, we would like to invite you to a welcome meeting to share some more information about Year 1. The meeting will be on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 9am** in the school hall. If you are unable to attend, we will share the slides on Google Classroom afterwards.

If you feel that you need to come and talk to us about anything concerning your child, please do. Communication between home and school is important and please feel that you can approach us. With that in mind, the best way to contact us is to email us directly on the following email addresses. Please note that we will endeavour to respond to you within 2 working days. If the matter is more urgent please contact the school office on [enquiries@swallowfieldprimary.com](mailto:enquiries@swallowfieldprimary.com) or 01908 582101.

Birch Class (Y1GW) – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday – [v.walden@swallowfieldprimary.com](mailto:v.walden@swallowfieldprimary.com)

Birch Class (Y1GW) – Monday, Thursday and Friday – [c.gedney@swallowfieldprimary.com](mailto:c.gedney@swallowfieldprimary.com)

Pine Class (Y1B) – [g.ballinger@swallowfieldprimary.com](mailto:g.ballinger@swallowfieldprimary.com)

We look forward to working with you and your child throughout the school year.

Kind regards,

Mrs Gedney      Mrs Walden      Mrs Ballinger-Carter      Mrs Ford  
Year One Teachers