

Welcome to Somer Class

Welcome back to school, we have missed you and it is great to see you all back and happy.

We have now settled into the new term and hope that this will be an exciting and challenging year for your child. We will be doing our very best to make sure they have an excellent year and hope you will encourage your child to do their best in Year 1. I have been so impressed with how quickly the children have settled back into school life after such a long time at home. Well done everyone!

There will be many differences this year and you can read the information from Mrs Smith about the safety precautions that we have put in place to ensure we are all as safe as can be. Please use the home/school communication books to pass on any messages, appointments to see us will have to be made in advance and please use the books to arrange any meetings.



Phonics and Spellings

We are currently assessing the children to see which phonics phase they are currently working on. We are aware that the children missed a large chunk of their Reception year so, for many children, we are having to focus on catching up on this before moving on to the Year 1 curriculum. When ready, the children will begin to bring home weekly spellings to learn. The children will then be tested on these spellings at school. Until then, please continue to look at the Phonics folders in their book bags. We are currently updating these from Reception so please be patient with us while we finalise these. You will also find the Year 1 common exception words and sounds to learn, inside the reading record books.



Number bonds and times tables

Soon, for those children who are ready, we will begin weekly number bonds and times tables tests. We will begin with the 10 times table. The children have been playing "Hit the button" this week and have amazed me with their knowledge and speed already. It is a super game to try at home too.



Reading

Children should be reading at home **daily**. A good routine is essential for this. The reading records allow you and your child to record how much reading is being done and comment on what has been read. Children will bring home colour banded books which they need to read at home and bring into school every day. Books will be changed weekly. At the moment we are having to quarantine books when they are returned to school so they may not be changed as regularly as you are used to.



Water Bottles

Please make sure your child has a named water bottle in school every day. Your child's water bottle will be sent home every day to be cleaned and **must** be returned the next day.



Peg charts

Now the children are in Year 1, they have moved onto the same behaviour and reward system as Years 2-6. Each child starts with a blank peg. They work their way up to outstanding (or down to a behaviour card). Children who have moved down can work their way back up. Every time a child reaches outstanding they get a dot on their peg. Once they have 3 dots on their peg, they can colour their peg in and they receive a certificate.





PE

Your child must have the appropriate PE kit in school **every day**; these kits will be sent home on **Fridays** to be cleaned and must be returned on **Monday**.

If you have any questions, please use the communication book to write in or phone up the school office to arrange an appointment or telephone call.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Smyth