



Learning in Year 1

Welcome! We've had a fabulous first few weeks back and it's been enjoyable getting to know your children and yourselves. Our partnership working with parents is something that we put great importance to in our Year 1 team. We have put this booklet together to support our communications and to enable us all to be the best we can be for your child in their exciting year of discovery!

Meet the team



Miss Orchard



Mrs Rush



Mrs Taylor

Aims of Year 1

- To build on learning and experiences from Reception.
- To ensure that all children are confident and fluent readers.
- To continue to develop independence.
- To gradually introduce more formal style lessons.
- To enjoy school and develop positive attitudes to learning.

Learning in Year 1

What is it like to be a learner in Year 1 at Much Wenlock?

Learning in Year 1 at Much Wenlock is full of exciting exploration, discovery, and achievement. We believe that children have a right to expect a learning environment, which is appropriate to their stage of development. Research and our own school experience tells us that young children learn best through play and exploration which is why initially we develop the Continuous Provision based approach they are already familiar with from Reception.

"Play is the highest form of research." Albert Einstein

Every day our children get the opportunity to become artists, writers, mathematicians, scientists, designers, storytellers, athletes and much, much more! We believe that the EYFS Characteristics of

Effective Learning (CoEL) are fundamental to ALL children. It does not stop when our children reach Key Stage 1 (KS1), we ensure it continues and develops, so that our children become confident, independent, motivated, and critical thinkers.

"Happy children make successful learners and happy adults make successful teacher." Alistair Bryce Clegg

Why do we continue with the Continuous Provision at the start of Year 1

- Our Continuous Provision offers children the chance to engage in active learning through hands-on, play-based activities, which they can access whenever they choose.
- Our Continuous Provision can enable children to explore recent learning, practice new skills, and follow their own interests, both indoors and out.
- Our Continuous Provision gives the children time to think and explore and the adult's time to work flexibly to support children on an individual level.
- Our Continuous Provision inspires children to be independent, resilient learners who motivate themselves to take on the next challenge and push themselves to their limits.
- Our Continuous Provision supports the transition between EYFS and KS1 by allowing close relationships to build, a strong sense of well-being to develop as well as leading to greater levels of enthusiasm for learning by adults and children alike.
- Our Continuous Provision supports and encourages our children to have a lifelong love of learning.



Curriculum Priorities

In KS1, our primary aim is that, through our approach to teaching and learning, every individual is supported to confidently read, write, and use mathematical knowledge, ideas, and operations so they are well prepared for the demands of their future learning.

We follow the [National Curriculum](#) and all KS1 Programme of Study Objectives in each subject are covered across Year 1.

Phonics Screening

In Year 1 the children will continue to build on their EYFS Phonic learning using the Monster Phonics scheme. At the beginning of June, the children will individually read a set of word cards with their class teacher in a relaxed and informal set-up. This is known as the 'Phonics Screening Check' which all schools take part in nationally. This allows the school to support your child to continue their phonics learning with the necessary provision into Year 2.

What does a learning day look like in Continuous Provision?

Children's days are a carefully planned blend of teacher led sessions, small group work, independent practice tasks and time for children to demonstrate and deepen their learning by choosing how to

access a range of opportunities in our Continuous Provision both inside and outside. We continue to build upon the CoEL and the children's eagerness to be independent in their own learning.

Throughout the environment, both inside and outside, you will see busy children actively engaged in a wide range of activities that they themselves have chosen. Our learning environment has been thoughtfully designed and organised to ensure our children reach their full potential.

The Year 1 classroom is a dynamic, well-resourced learning space that has been designed with progression in mind from the previous year group/ key stage. From the first few weeks of entering KS1, we ensure our children know that we value their play, their knowledge, and their capabilities by modelling our provision and setting high expectations, as they quickly learn it is a step up from EYFS. Staff will often enhance the provision areas in the classrooms to make links to adult led learning. This gives teachers the opportunity to introduce their adult-led activities, being sure that children have plenty of chances to practise and improve skills, knowledge, and confidence in active, independent learning.

In our Year 1 classroom, we have the following areas:

- Maths area (although maths opportunities are planned in other areas too)
- 'Message centre' or Writing area (although writing opportunities are planned in other areas too)
- Tinker area (fine motor skills)
- Small world and role play area
- Creative area
- Reading area
- Small construction area
- Self-service playdough making area (coming in Autumn 2)

The Year 1 pupils also have access to an outdoor area known as 'Adventure Island'. Here they can engage in open-ended role-play; construct models on a larger scale; create dens; engage with different creative materials such as paint, chalks, and junk modelling; explore and experiment with water play; create their own stories using small world in a natural environment and grow herbs and different plants in the planting patch!



How is learning recorded?

Learning is captured and recorded in a variety of ways. We will continue to use Tapestry to share learning with you. Every child will have a minimum of one observation uploaded onto Tapestry every fortnight, thus creating a well-rounded learning journal. In KS1, we link photographic learning evidence to EYFS and National Curriculum objectives.

Alongside Tapestry, Year 1 children will use one 'Writing' book to evidence weekly English or Topic/Science adult led activities. They will also have separate Maths (with squared paper) and Phonics

books. Each week, every child will engage with an adult led activity which will result in one piece of evidence in books or on Tapestry.

We like our parents to be part of their child's learning journey through the regular use of Tapestry. Please take time to comment and give us feedback on your child from home experiences and the things they talk about from school. You are also invited into school during open evenings; parents' evenings and class learning showcase events, we will enjoy sharing your child's learning and celebrate their successes.

Flexible Timetable Tailored to Needs

The Year 1 timetable is dynamic and adaptable to the evolving needs of the children. For instance, during Autumn 1, a phased transition will introduce whole school break times. At the outset, Year 1 will continue their continuous provision activities throughout the morning, gradually transitioning into attending breaks. This approach, similar to their Reception year, is further supported by maintaining outdoor access, facilitating a seamless shift into Year 1.

Timetable for Autumn 1

Year 1 timetable

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8:35-8:45	Class time	Class time	Class time	Class time	Class time
8:45-9:00	Handwriting	Handwriting	Handwriting	Handwriting	Handwriting
9:00-9:20	Phonics	Phonics	Phonics	Phonics	Phonics
9:20-9:35	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths	Maths
9:35-10:20					10:10am Celebration Assembly
10:30-10:50	Break Time				
10:50 - 11:05	Writing	Writing	Writing	Writing	Writing
11:05-11:50					
11:50 - 1:00	Lunchtime				
1:00- 2:00	PE	Topic / Science	Computing	PSHE	Forest School
2:00-3:10	RE		Music	Topic / Science	
3:15	Home Time	Home Time	Home Time	Home Time	Home Time

Celebrations of Achievement at Much Wenlock Primary School

These systems help us all to celebrate your child's successes and supports their development in developing effective life and learning skills.

House points

House points are given out as a recognition of achievement by individual children. They will include things such as:

- Demonstrating good learning behaviours
- Illustrating our school values
- Being polite and well-mannered to those around them

Each week, the house points are added up and the house with the most points is announced in our Friday assembly. We have four houses in Much Wenlock. They are Fire, Earth, Water, Air. A little healthy competition is great for all of us to enjoy!

Each child is assigned a house when they first join Much Wenlock. If you are unsure which house your child is in, please let us know and we can find out for you.



Star awards

Every Friday in assembly a child from each class is awarded a star award for demonstrating exceptional effort, improvement, or achievement in their learning or for illustrating the school values. These certificates will come home for you to celebrate this success at home as well.

Key things for Year 1 that will help the year run smoothly.

What do I need to bring?

- ☐ Blue book bag each day. This is the only bag you need to bring to school.
- ☐ Reading book and reading record.
- ☐ Named water bottle (water only).
- ☐ Packed lunch (if required).
- ☐ A positive attitude!

Please do not bring toys or precious items from home as they may become lost or damaged.

We do Show and Tell on a **Friday**. If your child would like to bring an item in for Show and Tell, please encourage them to keep it safely in their bag and to let an adult know that they have something to share with the class in Show and Tell.

PE and Forest School

Our PE days will be **Monday**. Please come to school in the correct PE kit (navy blue t-shirt, dark shorts/leggings/joggers, school jumper and trainers).

On **Fridays** we have Forest School, so please wear school PE kit ensuring they have long trousers and a long-sleeved top.

Lunch choices

Please can you have a discussion with your child about what they want for lunch each day. We will be asking them to choose their own lunch when they first come into the classroom. If you would like to make the choice on Arbor with them at home, this is also fine.

Timings for the school day

A reminder about timings for the school day: The classroom is open from **8:35am**. Registration will be at 8:45am. If you arrive after **8:45am** Please take your child to the School Office to sign in. School will finish at **3:15pm**.

How can you help at home?

Reading

Reading is an opportunity to experience new adventures, meet different characters and visit new places from the comfort of our own home and school. It has been well researched that those who read regularly and confidently are more successful. We all have an important role to play in helping our children to become better readers and to enjoy the reading experience. Reading with children at home improves their progress and development. It would be highly beneficial for your child if you could read with them regularly.

Top tips for reading with your child:

- Keep reading sessions short and enjoyable.
- Try to read a little bit each day.
- Find somewhere quiet without any distractions.
- Talk about the book and ask your child questions. The more you read and talk about stories and words, the more confident your child will feel about handling books and reading.
- You can read anytime, anywhere!
- Children don't just have to read their school book. They can read anything they wish e.g. books from the library, a menu, a magazine, shop signs.

Please can you sign your child's reading record as it helps us to work in partnership with you and give the best support we can to you and your child. This just needs to be a simple comment or identifying something specific that you noticed, e.g. a word or sound they read correctly or answers to any questions you asked them.

Reading books are changed once a week on a Wednesday. Please can reading packs be brought into school each day as they are needed for class reading activities.

Spelling

Your child will already have brought two Monster Phonics spelling books home. These books contain all the words that we will be learning for spelling tests throughout the year. Please feel free to use these as you wish at home to support the children in learning to read and write these words.

On a Friday we will send out a copy of the weekly spellings via Arbor as an email. Please practise these with your child in the week and we will have a small quiz on these words each Friday.

Top tips for practising spellings:

- Make it into a game, for example, hide the words and have a go at reading them. Then after some practise, see if your child can write the words and hide them for you to find.
- Write the words on tiny pieces of paper and then larger pieces.
- Write the words in different colours so that you create a rainbow picture.
- Paint the words (either using water and paintbrushes or paint and paintbrushes).
- Play spot the missing letter. Show your child the word but with some letters missing, can they fill in the blanks? For example, o_f. Can your child put the correct letter in the space?

Handwriting

The children will spend Year 1 re-capping how to correctly form each letter of the alphabet. This is an important skill which is taught gradually and alongside other fine motor skill activities (for example using scissors and threading beads). When supporting your child with their writing at home please encourage your child to form each letter correctly, starting in the correct place each time.

Maths

One of the best ways to support your child's understanding of Maths is to engage them with quick, practical, and fun activities or games that will allow you to help your child develop fast mental maths skills and increased confidence with using number. For example, you might look for numbers in the local environment and practise recognising and using numbers for addition and subtraction. We will be adding some links to online games and activities to the school website over the coming weeks.

Thank-you for your continued support in your child's learning, please share any concerns big or small. We are always here to listen.

Dates for the diary:

4th October 9:30-10:30 - Year 1 Walk around Much Wenlock

18th October 13:00 - 14:30 - Year 1 Multi Activities Day at William Brookes School.

19th October 9:00-12:00 - Year 1 Pottery visit

More details about these events will be sent via Arbor nearer the time.