

Welcome to Year One



Miss Macieira



Mrs Dodds



Miss Lywood

We would like to thank you for remaining behind the cones when dropping off and picking up your children. As we are unable to speak to you on the yard, please do not hesitate to email any queries or messages you have for us via the year 1 email address year1@crookprimaryschool.org.uk. We are also more than happy to arrange telephone appointments before or after school. These can be arranged through email, or alternatively by contacting the office. In the mornings, our main priority is getting your children safely inside and ready to start their lessons as quickly as possible, however, we will be more than happy to speak with you after school over the telephone or by email.

A Day in Year One

This first half term will concentrate on developing the children's reading, writing and early maths skills. A usual day will begin with a phonics lesson followed by a handwriting session and a morning story. Maths will be taught daily as well as a second phonics lesson after lunch. The afternoons will be focussed on PSHE, following our new Commando Joe's scheme, and letting the children choose their own learning in the Year 1 provision. Each day ends with another story before getting ready for home time.

P.E Days

Year 1's designated PE days are a **Thursday** and **Friday**. Children do not need to be supplied with a PE kit on these days. Instead, children should come into school wearing their uniform and trainers/appropriate PE footwear, to ensure their normal school shoes do not get ruined.

Parent Evenings

As we are unable to hold face to face parent evenings this term, we are going to be offering virtual parent meetings over the phone. Telephone appointments will be available on **Wednesday 14th October** (from 3.30pm – 5.00pm) and **Thursday 15th October** (between 8am and 9am) and will last for approximately **10 minutes** to ensure there is time to speak to everyone. If possible, could you please email* three appointment times/slots you are available to chat and we will get back to you to confirm your appointment time. A member of the Year One team will be making the calls to discuss your child's progress with you.

* year1@crookprimaryschool.org.uk

Homework Expectations

- **5-10 minutes of daily** reading using the Reading Planet website. Your child will have their own login and can choose an online book that matches their current phonics level before taking a quiz at the end to check their understanding. We would ask that your child reads their book at least twice before taking a quiz in order to increase their fluency and comprehension skills. <https://www.risingstars-uk.com/series/rising-stars-reading-planet>
- **5-10 minutes of daily** handwriting practice using the website Letter Join. The more frequently your child uses it the better their handwriting will become. Within the website there are a range of activities your child can enjoy to practise their letter formation either independently or as a whole family. Your child will be given their own login. <https://www.letterjoin.co.uk/index.html>
- **School Jam** – Each week we will send home a maths activity for your child to complete using the School Jam app. These activities link to your child's learning in class and is a fun way to get involved in their maths learning. The activities include quick games you and your child can play together. For information about how to download the app click on the link <https://crookprimary.org.uk/files/file/2020/WEBSITE%20School%20Jam%20parent%20information.pdf>
- **Read High Frequency Words** – In Year 1, your child will be learning to read and write 100 of the most frequent words that appear in storybooks by sight. A copy of the 100 high frequency words is available on the website for you to print off and display around your home. The more your child becomes familiar with these words the more fluent they will be at reading. Your child will also receive a pack of individual high frequency words, once they have built up a collection in class, to practice reading at home.
- **Sound Packs** – Throughout the year, your child will receive a sound pack of the phonics sounds that they are either struggling with or have yet to learn off by heart. Daily practice of these sounds is essential for progression in word reading. This does not have to be sat down learning, a quick flash of the sounds either on the way to school, in the bath or whilst preparing dinner is more than fine.

Your child's logins will be sent out in a sealed envelope over the next few weeks.

Please could you inform us if your child does not have access to the internet as we can then arrange a time for them to complete homework during the school day.

Phonics

Our website has detailed information about how we teach phonics in year one. It outlines the sounds and high frequency words taught in each phase.

<https://www.crookprimary.org.uk/index.php?pid=822>

In June 2021, each child will be required to take a phonics screening test where they are asked to read a mixture of real and nonsense words. This is a national statutory check which all schools are required to do. We will send out more information about this nearer the time but if you would like to know more now please follow the link below.

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/at-school/primary-school-assessment-tests/year-1-phonics-screening-check/>

Due to the recent close closure, schools have been asked to teach two short phonics sessions each day to give children the best possible chance to catch up with any missed learning.

Here are some useful websites that your child might like to access at home.

- PHONICS BLOOM <https://www.phonicsbloom.com/>
- TEACH MY MONSTER TO READ (app for tablet/phone)
- PHONICS PLAY <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/>

To see a phonics lesson in action please visit:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCP_FbjYUP_UtldV2K_-niWw Click on a Reception or Year One lesson as a point of reference. There is also videos and guides available to parents/carers for correct pronunciation of sounds and definitions of frequently used terminology.

Safety in the Environment

The children have been amazing at adopting all our new procedures and routines to help keep everyone safe and well in the Year One 'bubble'. The children sanitise/wash their hands at regular intervals throughout the day and after every transition. The children have learnt the importance of hygiene and why we must wash our hands so frequently, including how to use and dispose of tissues correctly. They are becoming really efficient at this and we are enormously proud at how well they are adapting to the current situation.



Clothing/Belongings

In Year One, the children learn how to become more independent and are encouraged to take care of their own belongings themselves. With this in mind, please can you take the time to label your child's clothing/belongings clearly so that they can identify their own items throughout the school day.

Gem Powers

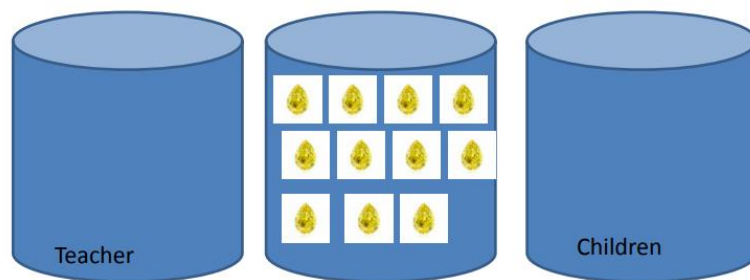
As a school we are continuing the use of Gem Powers this year to encourage positive learning behaviours needed to become effective learners and improve children's metacognition.

This term, the Year One children will focus on improving their Ruby and Diamond powers. Ruby Power is achieved by thinking kind thoughts, being supportive of others and doing kind things for them. It is the hardest gem to get and the easiest to lose. When children display Ruby Power, they release serotonin, a chemical in the brain that makes you feel good and relaxed.

The most powerful gem power of all is Diamond Power. Every time your brain solves a problem, a new connection (dendrite) grows. The more connections and dendrites you grow the better your ability to learn and solve problems.

As part of the Gem Project we have appointed Gem Detectives in each class to ensure children and teachers are using and showing gem power. Each detective observes how the children and teachers are using the gem power to support learning.

There will be pots of gems (diamonds one week and rubies the following week) in each classroom and the children work together as a team to see if they can collect more in their pot than the teacher. For example, if an adult has to solve a problem for the child the teacher takes a diamond from the children's pot and puts it in their pot. Each Tuesday, during our virtual year group assembly, the Gem Detective will reveal who has won the Gem Challenge that week, the children, or the class teacher. At the end of each half term, the class with the most challenges won receives a class reward.



Our Gem Detectives in Year One are:

Isla 1L and Archie 1M

Celebrating Success, Dojos and Rewards

Children can also earn gem power through the Dojo system, where they are rewarded dojos for demonstrating one of the key characteristics linked to each of the gems. The children can also be given 'needs work' dojos when they do not show positive gem power. For more information about our behaviour policy and the Dojo system please follow the link below.

<https://www.crookprimary.org.uk/index.php?pid=2698>

Children will individually work towards a mystery total of Dojos at the end of each half term. All children who have reached the target will be able to participate in a 1 hour year group celebration. Those children who have not met the target will spend the hour with Mrs Lupton or Miss Robinson reflecting on why they missed out and how they can improve their learner behaviours the following half term.

Weekly Dojo Champions (the child with the most dojos in the year group) will be announced in class on a Friday, along with the Star of the Week, and celebrated with parents/carers virtually via Marvellous Me.

As a reward for achieving Star of the Week, your child will be able to choose their own reward which will take place the following week. They will have the choice of either:

- A lunch date, with a chosen friend, watching a movie in the classroom
- The opportunity to be the 'Line Leader' for one whole week
- Or be the 'First to Choose' during choosing time in the classroom

Their name will also be published on the school website.