

Welcome to Year 1 and 2 September 2023



Welcome to Year 1 and 2 in Falcons class! A warm welcome from your class teacher (Sophie Pritchard). I have previously worked in another school in our wonderful Trust and am looking forward to being at Harbertonford. I hope you all had a lovely summer break. This letter is designed to give you a brief overview of the coming year. I am here to help so please do come and see me if you have any questions or concerns either at the end of the school day for quick queries or via the admin email / phone. I will get back to you as soon as possible. I am really excited about the year ahead and getting to know Falcons, ensuring that they have a fun and engaging year in 1 and 2!

General

There are two formal parents' evenings during the year. The first ones will be held on the week beginning the 16th of October; more details will follow nearer the time.

I will call the register at 8.50 am each morning and your child will need to be in the classroom before then to ensure they do not miss any announcements and learning time, often spellings or a morning task.

We are a 'uniform school' and will be raising expectations in standards this year. All children should wear school uniform (navy jumper/cardigan, grey skirt/pinafore/trousers/shorts, white polo shirt, plain grey/white/black socks, sensible and smart black shoes.) Nail varnish should be removed before school. Please see our website under the 'Parents' tab (school information) for more information about uniform. Please could I also reiterate that children will require water only in their water bottles, a healthy snack and coat / suncream depending on time of year.

English

English is taught for at least one hour a day but there will also be additional sessions focusing on spelling/phonics, grammar, comprehension and handwriting. The children will explore a wide range of text types, including fiction, non-fiction and poetry to develop and extend their reading and writing skills during the year. We teach English through an approach where children work towards a shared goal but with different starting points depending on their understanding. This helps us ensure time is not wasted by repeating aspects that children already know how to do.

The children will be expected to write independently, self -edit and improve their writing as part of the process.

The children will also undertake a weekly reading comprehension exercise. It is beyond doubt that the most beneficial way of helping your child make progress is to regularly support their reading at home, both hearing them read and being read to. We would really appreciate your support with this. If your child is reluctant to read at home or if you want support, please come and see us. Year 1 children will have access to a range of phonic books related to the sounds that they are learning and will progress on to the Accelerated Reader scheme once ready. More information can be found in the separate spelling and reading email sent out earlier.

Spellings for each week are introduced on a Monday (sent home the previous Friday). Some will follow a pattern which will be explored during the week with investigations and taught spelling sessions; others will be statutory words. Informal spelling quizzes will take place on a Friday.

Maths

Maths is also taught daily. Our aim is to ensure that the children are confident handling numbers and completing calculations and that they progress only when their understanding is completely secure. If the formal strategies they are using are unfamiliar, or you would like strategies clarified, please don't hesitate to ask me.

In maths, we use the White Rose scheme as a basis and the children will develop their skills through a mixture of activities, including formal written lessons, investigations, practical activities and games. By Year 2 the expectation is that children can count in 2's, 5's and 10's and therefore continued practice of these tables at home would be very much appreciated; **all children are expected to know their tables up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4.** They have a login for Times Tables Rockstars to support their progress.

Topic Work

In our non-core curriculum this year, we will be looking at:

- **Contrasts and Comparisons**
- **Where We Live**
- **Across the Sea**

Each topic will have a Geography or History focus, as well as links to taught computing, Science, RE, PSHE, PE, Music, Art and/or D.T.

Children will explore a question linked to their topic to help them build and develop their knowledge.

P.E. & Kit

PE will be held on Tuesdays and Wednesday. This term will focus on invasion games. Children need to wear navy/blacks shorts and a school PE t-shirt or plain red t-shirt and trainers or plimsoles. For outdoor games, children may wear a tracksuit instead in cold weather. Children should arrive at school wearing their PE kit on their designated PE days. All kit should be clearly named. Please note, no jewellery may be worn during P.E. sessions. We have a duty to provide physical education to our children and you will be contacted by the school if your child regularly does not have their kit.

Home Learning

Homework is set on Teams on a **Friday**. Mostly, this will be the children's weekly spellings but may be set different activities and projects set that will prepare or consolidate learning that we have been doing within school. For example, looking for something in nature, bringing in a photo, toy etc. I will give different options on how home learning can be approached and completed. There will be spellings, times tables rockstars and reading too.

Media

We now have a high media profile through the local press, our website, Facebook and Instagram. If you do not wish for your child's photo to be published, please let us know through the 'Media Permission' form that the office will send out.

Clubs

Throughout the year the children will be able to participate in a range of lunchtime clubs. Further details will be sent out on the newsletter.

Collective Worship

We hold Collective Worship every day and use the time to explore our school values. Our Friday Collective Worship focuses on celebrating achievements and children are welcome to bring in awards they have gained outside school to share with everyone. Please also email the office and let us know if your child has demonstrated the current school value at home.

Information

A link to our weekly newsletters is sent home by email and contains important, up to date information, as well as photos of what the children have been learning that week. **Please make sure you check it weekly.** If you need to contact a teacher directly, please email the admin address and your message will be forwarded to the relevant teacher. We are striving to reduce our "paper footprint" and moving towards sending all information electronically. If you do need a paper copy of any specific letters, please drop into the office and they will be happy to print one for you.

We have an exciting year ahead and I am really looking forward to sharing it together.