

Year 1 Welcome Letter

A very warm welcome back to school this year. We hope that you have had a great summer holiday. I look forward to getting to know your child and watching them grow, both socially and academically. Year 1 is the start of your child working on the National Curriculum. It is quite different from Reception class. However, to ensure an easier transition for the children, we continue with some areas of continuous provision, throughout the Autumn term. This will be mostly tabletop provision, due to the size of the classroom. They will no longer have their own carpet place but instead have their own table place. Some children will have a maths place and an English place. They change places frequently, throughout the year.

Reading Books

We change reading books on a **Wednesday**.

In their reading wallet, they will come home with a decodable book and a reading record. This decodable book, your child should be able to read 90% fluently to you. They will have not read this book before with an adult. Please comment in their reading record about how they read both books. Any words that they struggled with, please comment. They will also come home with a book for pleasure. This book is for your child to be able to listen to an adult read it to them to encourage a love for reading. They pick which book they would like to take home for pleasure, each week. You can also comment in their record on books they have read at home. Your child will have come home today with a new plastic reading folder containing their first decodable book and their monkey reading record. Please ensure your child brings their book each Wednesday to be changed. **Reading for 5/10 minutes a day is vital to consolidate their phonic skills and improve their fluency.** If you misplace or damage a reading book throughout the year, then you must pay £5 (please see the school office) to replace the lost or damaged book. Once the office receives the payment, we will allocate your child with a new book. We assess your child every 5/6 weeks to see if they can move up books. **If your child is on phase 4 set 2 this means they are currently on track and where they should be.** We will write in their home reading record when we have conducted the assessments and if they have moved up a phase/set. We only check reading records on a Wednesday.

PE

PE is on a **Tuesday afternoon**. Children will come into school that day wearing their PE kit. Please still ensure all items are labelled. If your child has their ears pierced, please provide tape/plasters for your child to cover them up with or remove the piercings before the school day. This is for health and safety. Otherwise, they will be sent to Year 2. We have an external PE coach who will deliver their sessions.

Water Bottles

The children should have their own water bottles, which they bring to school. These should be taken home each day, so that fresh water can be put in them. We do have access to cups, should someone forget their bottle, so they will always have fresh water available. Please ensure their water bottle is labelled with their name. Water only! This is school policy. Any juice will be asked to be emptied down the sink. Please ensure the bottle is plastic and that it has a sucker/straw, not a screw off lid. **Please refer to the previous message about sizing of water bottles to ensure they fit in our new drinks holders we have purchased as a school.**

School Bag

Ideally, we would like your child to come to school with a Cams Lane Book bag. If you are using a backpack for your child, please ensure it fits an A4 homework book in. No toys are to be brought into school.

Curriculum

Each half term, I will upload a curriculum map to the class webpage, which will inform you of the learning that will be taking place for that current half term. Autumn's curriculum map will be available on the class webpage by **Friday 11th September 2026**.

Phonics Meeting

At the end of year 1, children are required to take a phonics test to assess progress across Reception and Year 1 in their phonics knowledge of blending real and nonsense words. This is nothing for the children to worry about. The test will be completed at the beginning of June. On **Wednesday 23rd September 2026 at 4:30pm**, there will be a parent Phonics/Reading meeting, with more information. It will last around half an hour. Unfortunately, no children will be able to attend this meeting.

Stay and Play Session

Stay and Play is extremely popular in Reception, and we always have an amazing turn out! To ease the transition from Reception to Year 1, we hold **one** Stay and Play in the first half term displaying how well your child has settled into their new classroom and for you to complete some challenges/activities with your child in their new environment. Due to the size of the classroom, we will split the session into a morning group and an afternoon group with 15 max per session. **The morning session will be 9:15 – 10:15am on Monday 12th October 2026 and the afternoon session will be 2:00 – 3:00pm on Monday 12th October 2026.** Unfortunately, due to the size of the classroom, no younger siblings can attend. Also, only 1 adult per child please. We will have a signing up sheet closer to the time for you to sign up.

Year 1 Maths Workshop

We will be holding a maths workshop where there will be different challenges/questions set out for your child to show you what resources we use to help us in our maths and the methods we use to solve these problems. Prior, parents have asked for us to demonstrate the methods and strategies we use in each year group, because most of the time it is different from when we as adults went to school. Unfortunately, due to the size of the classroom, no younger siblings can attend. Also, only 1 adult per child please. This will be **Wednesday 4th November 2026 at 2:00pm**.

Homework

Homework is optional and is not something each class does throughout the school. I provide homework in Year 1 due to the jump from Reception. They are not used to the need for recording their work. We will set homework in a red homework book. This might be some maths, English or linked to our foundation topics. Books are sent home on a Wednesday and are due back in by the following Monday. If you wish for your child not to have homework sent home, please mention it to Mrs Hardman or myself. This is fine.

Dates for your diary

- Phonics/Reading meeting – Wednesday 23rd September 2026 at 4:30pm
- Stay and Play session - Monday 12th October 2026 at 9:15am or 2:00pm. The session will last 1 hour.
- Year 1 Maths workshop – Wednesday 4th November 2026 at 2:00pm

Tapestry

Tapestry in Year 1 will be used:

- to send out letters/information regarding Year 1
- to upload (group) photographs of our lessons which are practical based

For example, in maths the learning objective might be to touch count to ten. They will complete a math's worksheet for that objective in their book. We would not photograph this lesson. Whereas in DT where we are making a model, we will photograph the various stages.

We do not use Tapestry daily in Year 1. This is due to the sheer volume of work in books we must complete. We try to post an observation at least each week. Sometimes it might be more depending on the topics covered that week.

Any messages regarding if your child is off poorly or has an appointment should not be sent via Tapestry and instead needs to go through the office.

Communication in Year 1

We will also be updating our class webpage with work; we have completed throughout the year for you to take a look. Here is the link.

[Cams Lane Primary School - Year 1](#)

We have an open-door policy at Cams Lane. If you have a question to ask, then please feel free to catch Mrs Hardman in the morning, or myself at the end of the day. If this is not convenient, you can email the school office, who will forward it on to me.

Here is to making lots of fabulous memories in Year 1.

Miss Partington