

Mandeville Primary School

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September 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to a new school year! It has been wonderful to welcome the children into Year One. We have been so impressed with how well they are all settling into their new routines.

We are really looking forward to getting to know you and your children over the coming weeks and working together to make this a happy and successful year. We hope that your children will enjoy all the themes, challenges and approaches to learning that Year One has to offer.

Please remember that we are always on hand to listen to any worries or concerns. You can catch us at the end of the day or make an appointment via the office. In the morning, if you have any messages, please either speak to the member of staff on duty on the playground or send an email to office@mandeville221.herts.sch.uk, and this will be passed on.

As part of our geography and science learning, we will be going on a walk around Sawbridgeworth in October. If you are able to accompany us, we will be asking for volunteers nearer the time.

A Day in Year One...

Year One will come into school at **8:40am**, when the bell is rung, and finish school at **3:15pm**. We begin the day with our phonics session, followed by a break, during which we complete the 'Daily Mile'. We then have English. After playtime, we move on to our maths and guided reading sessions before lunch. In the afternoon, we will have our handwriting and foundation lessons. To begin the autumn term, we will continue to incorporate some child-initiated learning sessions into the timetable to ensure that the children have a smooth transition from Reception to Year One. The class timetable will continue to adapt and develop as the children become more settled and accustomed to the systems in Year One.

Our learning support assistants are Mrs Harding and Mrs Ellington Saffron, Miss McConkey, and Mrs Madden Amber. Mrs Harding will also be covering our preparation and planning time (PPA), which will take place on Thursday afternoon for Amber Class and Friday for Saffron Class.

Children can still have milk if it has been ordered via the office, and fruit will be supplied. If a snack is provided from home, it needs to be fruit or vegetables.

Children need to bring in a water bottle, which they can have access to throughout the day. Please ensure that the water bottle is clearly labelled. Children are reminded to bring their water bottles home daily. However, they can be rinsed out and refilled at school if the children forget to take them home. Playtimes will be outside as much as possible, so a coat would be beneficial, even if it doesn't look like it might rain in the morning!

Curriculum

English and mathematics lessons usually take place every morning. Our learning builds on what the children covered in Reception, and we will spend the first few weeks revisiting previous learning to help them become confident with the routines and expectations of Year One.

In English, we are beginning with the text *Jasper's Beanstalk*.

In maths, we will be following a mastery approach, using lots of concrete apparatus to support us with revising concepts and learning new ones. We will gradually move on to drawing and representing these concepts as the term progresses.

In science, we will begin by learning about plants and thinking about the changing seasons. Further details of the Year One curriculum can be found on the school website:
<https://www.mandeville221.herts.sch.uk/curriculum/>.

Home Learning

Your child will be given a reading book, which should be brought into school daily, along with their reading record book. After listening to your child read at home, please sign the reading record book. Children's books will be changed twice a week, on **Tuesdays and Fridays**, provided that they have been read and their reading record has been signed.

We encourage children to reread their books so that they become familiar with the words and develop fluency. You can support this by modelling how the book should sound when it is read aloud and encouraging your child to join in. As children develop their word recognition, they become more fluent readers, which makes reading more enjoyable and helps to build their confidence. The expectation in Year One is that your child reads to an adult every day for approximately **10 minutes**. Reading daily really does have a significant impact on your child's progress. The children will also be invited to take home a 'shared reading' book, which they may change as often as they wish.

The weekly information sheet will be put onto Google Classroom. This will give details of the main areas of learning for that week.

Physical Education

This term, our P.E. lessons will be on **Tuesday and Wednesday**. Please ensure that your child has the correct kit in school at all times so that they can participate.

Children should have black crested shorts, a red T-shirt (preferably with the school crest), a black tracksuit and trainers. Wednesday's P.E. lesson will be outside, so please ensure that your child has trainers and a black tracksuit for when it starts to get chilly. During P.E. lessons. Earrings should either be removed or surgical tape used to cover earrings.

With kind regards

Mrs Wilson and Mrs Wright
Year 1 Teachers

