



# Year 1

## Information for Parents/Carers

Welcome to the 2024-2025 school year.

The information set out in this booklet is about how the class will operate throughout the year.

If you have any questions or queries throughout the year please feel free to ask at any time.

N.B. Don't forget to check out the school website and class dojo for our latest news, photographs and examples of work.

[www.valewood.co.uk](http://www.valewood.co.uk)

## **Year 1 Staff**

Class Teacher – Mrs Wright (Full time)

- Miss Lynam (Full Time)

Teaching Assistants – Mrs Cassidy (Full time)

Miss Silcock (Full time)

Mrs Robinson (Mon- Wed)

Mrs McCombe (Thurs – Fri)

Please feel free to pass on any information to the above staff. There is always someone available at the beginning and at the end of every day.

### **School Day**

Doors open at 8.40am

Registration takes place at 8.45am

School ends at 3.15pm

### **Dismissal Procedures**

Dismissal at the end of the day will be from the classroom door. Children will only be handed over to a known adult. If you require another adult to collect your child at the end of the day a verbal communication at the classroom will suffice or communication via the school office. However, school cannot accept the say so of another child's parent and your child will not be handed over. NB a password may be required from any adult not known to the school.

Please be reminded that you are responsible for your children before 8.40am/handover and also after 3.15pm/pick up from school. Children need to be supervised by parents/carers at all times. If an older sibling is due to collect a member of Year 1 then the signed permission form (permission to walk home) must be completed and a message must be sent via dojo to inform the class teacher.

### **Attendance & Punctuality**

Termly acknowledgements regarding attendance will continue to be issued this year. 97% is our school target. It is important that your child arrives to school on time, as learning starts the moment they step foot in the classroom! If your child is late or needs to be collected for an appointment you will be required to use the electronic signing in/out system located by the school office. If your child's attendance falls below 90% they are classed as a "Persistent Absentee". Attendance concerns are addressed each half term and parents/carers will be notified in writing of this. Please be reminded that request for holidays in term time will not be authorised and it is school policy to issue a local authority fine if the child has had 5 days or 10 sessions missed for unauthorised reasons in one term. Any request for "special leave" (extenuating circumstances) must be made on the orange form which can be collected from the school office.

## **Behaviour**

This year the children will continue to receive 'Dojo' points for their behaviour and fabulous work. This system has been a great success over the last few years as both a way of celebrating successes and communicating with parents.

## **Home-school Contact**

I will usually be available after school but this is not always possible due to busy schedules so please feel free to contact me via the Dojo system and I will respond at my earliest convenience. I am available via dojo for minor queries, however, if you have anything that you feel needs discussing in more detail please request an appointment to meet at a suitable time.

- **Please be aware that messages in the evenings and at weekends will not be routinely monitored.**
- **Please be reminded that all urgent queries in the school day should go through the office.**

## **Uniform**

Please ensure your child comes to school in the correct Valewood uniform. Nail varnish, make up and jewellery are not permitted to be worn in school. Small stud earrings and a small analogue watch are permitted but smart watches are not allowed.

Non-uniform day attire: please note that cropped tops, football kits and high heels are not permitted to be worn in school. Children need to be dressed appropriately for ALL school days.

## **Curriculum**

The children will continue to receive a broad and balanced curriculum. Termly curriculum guides will show the focus for each subject that will be taught throughout each term. Learning will be periodically revisited throughout the year. Check out the school website or class dojo for information regarding the Year 1 curriculum.

The children will have 6 main topics throughout the year: 'Toys and their stories', 'Adventures in Polar Lands', 'Bears, Bears, Everywhere', 'Time Travellers', 'Nature Detectives' and 'Sun, Sea and Sand'. Check out the school website or class dojo for information regarding the Year 1 curriculum.

At Valewood our reading scheme is centred around the Oxford Reading Tree scheme. The children follow the Floppy's Phonics scheme and access to these resources can be found at the Oxford Owl website.

School excursions and learning outside the classroom (eg Forest School) are important elements of our school curriculum and parents/carers are welcome to support these days providing you have a current school volunteer DBS. Please contact the school office to apply. All volunteers must agree to the School's Volunteer Code of Conduct.

## **Online Safety**

Teaching online safety is an integral part of our curriculum and is referenced in all subjects. Children's use of technology is carefully planned for throughout the week and all school devices are protected by our school firewall.

## **Use of Technology at Home**

Children's access and use of technology and social media at home is the responsibility of the parents/carers. Issues arising from inappropriate use of social media outside of the school day will not be dealt with by school staff.

## **Learning at Home**

### **Home Reading**

Regular home reading gives children an opportunity to practise skills and encourages a love of reading in leisure time. In Year 1, the children will read through whole class reading sessions. Please encourage your child to read every day at home (or at least 5 times a week for 15 minutes) as it is proven that home reading has a big impact on a child's reading fluency and accuracy. Please ensure you make a record of your child's reading at home as reading records will be monitored. Children should bring their book bags to school every day and will be kept in their locker. **School staff will support the children to change their books at least once a week however reading books can be changed on any day.** Oxford Owl is also a wonderful resource for children to use to access Floppy's Phonics resources and read additional banded books. This year the children will also be bringing home an additional reading book linked to the phonics that they are studying in class. These books can be shared at home but will need to be in book bags every day.

### **Spellings**

Year 1 spellings will be set every Friday to be practised at home in their pirate spelling book. Spelling games will also be available via our app – The Spelling Shed. Each child will be issued with a login for the website/app where they will be able to practice relevant spellings for their age.

### **Maths**

Year 1 will be set an online Maths task through maths.co.uk. They will also be able to access additional Maths practise activities through Maths Shed and Times Tables Rockstars.

It is expected that every child completes the above homework tasks.

### **P.E.**

P.E. will usually take place twice a week but sometimes this has to be changed, so please can children have their kits (shorts, t-shirt, spare socks and pumps/trainers, plain tracksuit in cold weather) in school every day. Please name all kit. Please note that the children will require their PE kits every Monday and every Friday.

If your child fails to bring in a PE kit, you will be reminded that PE is part of the school curriculum and we will provide spare kit so that your child does not miss their

lesson.

### **The Daily Mile**

This year we will undertake the 'Daily Mile' initiative encouraging all members of the Valewood community to be more active. The 'Mile' is not about running fast and winning a race but instead is about developing stamina and promoting healthy lifestyles – healthy minds and healthy bodies.

### **Free School Meals**

Every child in Year 1 is eligible to receive a free school meal, under the government's initiative. We encourage you to take up this offer. If you believe you are eligible for free school meals, linked to your income, it is important that you apply for this as it provides additional funding for your child in school (the form for this application can be collected from the school office). If your child decides to bring a packed lunch then they can bring their lunch in an appropriate lunch box which will be kept in their locker.

### **Snacks and Tuck Shop**

Children are allowed to bring a sensible snack from home to consume at morning play time. Fruit and healthy snacks are encouraged. Alternatively, the children can purchase a snack from the class tuck shop at the cost of 40p. If your child requires a tuck shop snack everyday please send them into school with £2.00 or they can bring 40p each day however they will need the exact money as no change can be given. The children are encouraged to bring in a water bottle every day, however, please ensure that it is a suitable size. Over-sized expensive water bottles are not acceptable.

### **Birthday Treats**

If your child would like to bring in a birthday treat to celebrate their special day then only individually wrapped treats are allowed. They must be given to one of the adults in class (no treats will be accepted via the office) who will place the treats in a safe place and supervise the distribution of the treats at the end of the day.

### **Bikes and Scooters**

We encourage families to walk to school and park away from Sherwood Ave and Sherwood Rd. If you do need to park then please park respectfully and do not park across our neighbours' driveways. Please remind your children that scooters/bicycles etc should not be used on school property and should be locked in the bike sheds. A bicycle/scooter agreement should be completed before your child comes to school on their bike/scooter.

### **REMINDERS**

- Please help us to make sure that your child does not lose any of their clothing by naming all items.
- Please ensure that your child arrives at school with all the necessary equipment they need to minimise disruptions to learning.

We are looking forward to teaching and supporting your child in Year 1, here's to a fantastic year ahead!

**Mrs Wright**

**Year One Class Teacher & Assistant SENDCo**

**Miss Lynam**

**Year One Class Teacher**

Further Meetings

Parents/Carers progress meetings will be held in October and March