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Welcome to Year 1 and Year 2!

We hope that your family had a great summer and that your child has enjoyed their first few days in Year 1 and Year 2. We have some wonderful new topics planned for the year ahead and look forward to working with you to support your child in the next part of their learning journey at Huntington School.

This letter gives an overview of the curriculum that your child will be covering this term along with a few reminders about general organisation, routines and expectations. Our main priority is to ensure that the children feel happy and secure at school, and to identify and address any areas where the children, either individually or collectively, need further support to make progress.

Teaching Staff

Elm Class are taught by Mrs Thomson (Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays) and Miss Bate (Thursdays and Fridays). Beech Class are taught by Mrs Ward (Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday mornings) and Mrs Pelham (Wednesday afternoons, Thursdays and Fridays). Maple Class are taught by Mrs Jones (Mondays and Tuesdays) and Mrs Gait (Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays). As a Key Stage 1 team, we work in close collaboration and plan all learning activities together. Each class is also supported by a full-time teaching assistant:

Elm Class – Mrs Cadman

Beech Class – Mrs Thomson

Maple Class – Miss Giles

We are also fortunate to continue to be supported by additional specialist teaching staff in some subject areas:

Mrs Williams – Computing

Ben - PE

Learning in the Autumn Term

Planning is based on the National Curriculum for Key Stage 1 but all children will be given tasks and activities that are appropriate to their year group and ability. The children will be streamed in the morning sessions for English, phonics, spelling, reading and mathematics but will work with their registration class every afternoon. We are aware that some children moving into Year 1 will initially need short bursts of continuous provision planned into their day.

Each half term, teaching and learning will be centred around a new topic. As a school, we follow the 'Pathways to Write' English scheme, where teaching is centred around a class text each half term. Work in all subject areas will be linked to these topics and texts wherever possible to make learning

more enjoyable and meaningful for the children. Information about our autumn term texts and topics is available on our webpage, including a topic web listing details of learning in each curriculum area.

Phonics and Early Reading

We will be continuing to use the Little Wandle programme in lessons to build upon the children’s phonics and early reading skills, and to further their love of reading. Information about the Little Wandle programme and our approach to the teaching of phonics and early reading is available on the school website.

As part of the Little Wandle programme, each child’s reading ability will be individually assessed every six weeks to determine which books are best matched to their secure phonics knowledge and level of fluency. Reading Record Books and reading books will be collected in each Monday morning and given out on Fridays. Your child will also be bringing a sharing book home each Friday; please return these to school on Thursdays.

At home, please read with your child and read to your child as often as possible; it really does make a huge difference in many ways.

Homework

Each Friday, your child will be set mathematics homework via MathShed to complete online (login details to follow). They will bring home their English homework, which will include weekly handwriting, in an exercise book which will need sticking in at home. All these tasks will be linked to the activities that the children have completed in class.

The first homework activities will be set on Friday (13th September). Mathematics and English homework should be handed-in on Tuesdays for teachers to check. ***Please Note:******Mathematics homework that is completed online after Tuesday at 18:00 will show as not completed******to the teacher - so please encourage your child to do this on time.***

In addition to this, we will list ‘Weekly Spellings’ and ‘Weekly Phonics’ on our Year 1 and Year 2 webpage for additional practise at home; this will begin on Monday 16th September.

We are aware that everyone is very busy and understand that, on occasion, it may be difficult for your child to complete their homework on time. However, the additional practice that homework provides for your child really does help them to progress and builds confidence. We also want your child to establish a positive homework routine to help them in the future.

PE

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To maximise the time available for PE, children should come to school on PE days wearing their PE kit, beneath plain, dark tracksuit trousers and a school sweatshirt, cardigan or full zip fleece.

PE kit is a plain white t-shirt, plain black shorts and plain black pumps or trainers. ***Please do not send your child into school wearing laced trainers unless your child can tie these quickly and independently.***

Elm Class's PE days are: Tuesdays and Wednesdays

Maple Class's PE days are: Tuesdays and Thursdays

Beech Class's PE days are: Mondays and Thursdays

If your child has hair that is longer than their shoulders, please tie this back on PE days. Children should also have any earrings removed at home for health and safety reasons.

Reward Systems

To reward the children for good work, effort or behaviour we continue to use the school’s star point and certificate system. Children will receive a small colourful certificate when fifty star points have been collected. A large certificate will be presented to the children when one hundred start points have been accrued. We have a wall chart in the classrooms where children can move onto *stars* and *superstars*. Children moving onto the *star* get a ticket to put in a jar from which two names are drawn each Friday for a small prize. Pupils moving onto the *superstar* also get a superstar sticker to make you aware of their achievement.

If a child chooses not to follow the school rules, they are initially given a reminder. If they need to be spoken to again, they will miss up to ten minutes of their playtime.

For more information, please refer to the School’s Behaviour Policy which is available on the website.

Celebration Assembly

Every Thursday we will be holding a Key Stage 1 Celebration Assembly in which three children from each class will be selected for a weekly award. One child will be chosen for excellent behaviour and a second selected for their academic work. In addition to this, one child from each class will also be awarded for their effort and progress in phonics and reading. A photograph of the children will be added to a tab on our Year 1 and Year 2 webpage each week to recognise their success, and they will bring a certificate home.

Asthma

If your child has asthma and needs an inhaler, please make sure that one is sent into school and that it can remain with us. A medical form will need to be completed - these are available from the school office.

Naming clothes/belongings

**Please, please, please** make sure that all clothes/belongings are clearly named, especially sweatshirts, cardigans, coats and water bottles. Please do this with a permanent pen or label as biro quickly washes out.

School Bags

Owing to limited storage space within the classroom and cloakroom areas, please may we ask that children bring a bookbag to school; we do not have space for rucksacks and satchels. As bookbags are stored in small trays or baskets, please can we request that children attach just ***one or two*** small keyrings to these so that they fit in the space easily.

Water Bottles

Please ensure that your child brings a filled water bottle into school each day. These are available to the children during class time. At the end of each day water bottles will be sent home for cleaning and refilling.

Morning Snack/Nut Free School

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Children in Key Stage 1 receive a **free** fruit snack each day.

Please do not send your child into school with any products containing nuts for their packed lunch.

Party Invitations/Thank You Letters

As we are sure you can imagine, the school day is very busy, and we do not have time to hand out party invitations/thank you letters in class. Please use the time before or after school to do this where possible.

Home Time Arrangements

Please let us know as early as possible in the school day if your child is going to be collected from school by somebody different than usual. Please speak to the class teacher in the morning or email/call the school office. Please do not use the class email address for this purpose as sometimes teachers do not have time to check this during the day.

Please ensure that your child is closely supervised on the playground at the start and end of the day. Children are not allowed to use the adventure play equipment, to use balls or to ride bikes or scooters on the yard during these times.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know or contact us via our class email address:

[beech@huntington.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:beech@huntington.cheshire.sch.uk)

[maple@huntington.cheshire.sch.uk](mailto:maple@huntington.cheshire.sch.uk)

[elm@huntington.cheshire.sch.uk](about:blank)

We look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year.

Kind regards,

Miss Bate, Mrs Gait, Mrs Jones, Mrs Pelham, Mrs Thomson and Mrs Ward (Class Teachers)