

Year 1 Autumn 1 Newsletter

MARVELLOUS ME

Welcome to Year 1!

We hope that you find the following information useful in supporting your child's learning at home and school.

When undertaking this work, we will focus on giving the children many opportunities to develop independent learning skills.

Our school website can be accessed at www.bankfootprimary.co.uk

Promoting British Values - Statutory Requirement

We will be challenging pupils in debates where they will have the opportunity to express their opinions on the fundamental British Values.

Democracy

The children will work together to make a class mission statement, stating what they need to do to become outstanding learners and to do their best work at all times.

Rule of Law

They will find out about the school rules and discuss the importance of having these rules in place.

Individual Liberty

The children will look at ways they can work independently and achieve goals in Year 1.

Tolerance

The children will learn how to work as a group, valuing the ideas of others and making compromises.

Mutual Respect

They will learn about special stories associated with different religions and develop an understanding that other people may have different beliefs to their own.

Community Values

The Community Values we will focus on this half term are Kindness and Gratitude. Through assemblies and in class, we will be helping pupils understand what these Values mean, and how we can put them into practice.

Spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC)

Spiritual

The children will have opportunities to explore their senses and how they help them learn about the world around them.

Moral

They will listen to stories and think about the morals that are highlighted. They will find out how some stories are special to different religions.

Social

They will learn how to take turns and share when working collaboratively.

Cultural

They will celebrate European Day of Languages on 26 September. This will help them to understand different cultures and diversity.

PSHE

Health and Wellbeing

The children will learn about different emotions and how to recognise them. They will learn about how to express their own feelings and how different situations can cause a variety of emotions.

They will identify activities that can help with wellbeing.

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Mental Health and Well Being

Mental health is about our feelings, our thinking, our emotions, and our moods. Here are some tips for talking to your child about their feelings:

1. Make conversations about feelings a normal part of life.
2. Ask open questions: Such as "How did your day go today?"
3. Offer empathy rather than solutions .
4. Remember we are all different.
5. One way to start a conversation about feelings might be: "How are you feeling at the moment?"

Readers

As Readers, children will focus on developing their phonic knowledge as a main strategy for reading words. They will also start to use VIPERS (Vocabulary, Infer, Predict, Explain, Retrieve, Sequence) to support their reading comprehension.

Writers

As Writers, the children will continue to develop their handwriting skills through regular practice. They will focus on basic sentence structure, such as using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. They will learn how to use ideas in stories and poems and adapt these to create their own narratives.

Bankfoot's Star Writer Competition – The Mysterious Bag

This half term, pupils will be taking part in our exciting Star Writer Competition, inspired by *The Mysterious Bag*. Children will explore a range of intriguing objects found inside a mysterious bag left outside our school playground and use their detective skills to piece together the clues

and solve the mystery of how the bag has ended up at our school. They will plan and create their own piece of writing, choosing a genre that best suits their ideas. This competition aims to inspire creativity, imagination and curiosity, while encouraging pupils to develop their writing skills and produce high-quality work. We are looking forward to seeing the wonderful ideas our talented young writers come up with and celebrating their achievements at the end of the term.



Mathematicians

As Mathematicians, the children will learn place value and calculation up to 10. Through securing knowledge of skills such as greater than, smaller than and ordering numbers, children will then be able to use these skills and apply them to numbers of a greater value.

Scientists

Children will start to learn about seasonal change and this will be ongoing throughout the year, as they observe different seasons and develop an understanding of the continual cycle. Observations will be made of the different types of weather and how they can record weather patterns. They will carry out an experiment measuring rainfall over the term.



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Spiritual Thinkers

We follow the Bradford Agreed Syllabus. The school understands the importance of the children needing to acquire core knowledge and understanding of the beliefs and practices of the religions and worldviews, which not only shape their history and culture but which guide their own development.

This term, the topic is '**Which books and stories are important?**' The children will look at well known stories and discuss what the message is. They will be looking at different religious books and why they are important.

Geographers

As Geographers, the children will learn about our school and where they live. They will start to develop map skills, starting with making a simple plan of the classroom. This will extend to fieldwork around the school grounds and using Google maps to find places around school.



Artists

As artists, the children will develop drawing skills. They will explore mark-making using different media and create different types of line. They will also work co-operatively to create a group piece of artwork. They will look at artists work and make comparisons to their own work.

Computer Scientists

The children will start to find out about the technology around them. They will learn how it impacts on everyday lives and how to stay safe in a digital world.

As they will now have access to their own Chromebook, children will learn basic

keyboard skills and how to log on to Google Classroom.

Useful websites

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk>

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk>

Musicians

As musicians, the children will explore ukuleles. They will be looking at how the instrument works, playing techniques and will create their own music.

Drama

Through the topic, My body and voice, the children will learn how to control their bodies and follow instructions. They will learn to use their voice, face and body to show a variety of emotions.

Health & Fitness advisors

PE will focus on football and handball. The children will learn large ball skills, such as kicking and dribbling a large ball and also throwing and catching. They will apply their skills to football and handball where they will learn how to work as a team, defending and attacking.

They will also learn about spatial awareness, movement, direction and balance. They will develop an understanding of how to keep themselves fit and healthy and why this is important.

Attendance and punctuality

Be on time every day, every week!

Expectations

Children are expected to behave their very best at all times. Children know that this contributes to their learning and creates a positive school ethos. Children are taught to be considerate and supportive of each other. Children are encouraged to be welcoming and positive to visitors.

Our Bankfoot Four

Be kind
Be ready
Be resilient
Be better

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Forth coming events

School closes for half term holiday

Friday 23 October 2025 at 12.40pm

School reopens

Monday 2 November 2025

Reminders

School uniform

Please remember to clearly label your child's clothes and pumps.

PE is on Monday and Wednesday. Please ensure that your child has the correct PE kit - navy blue jogging pants and navy blue t-shirt.

Due to health and safety, children must not wear any earrings on PE days.



Mission Statement

Children are continuing to work on the agreed mission statement to ensure that the class is a safe, fair and happy environment to learn. It is displayed in the classroom and referred to regularly to remind children of expectations.

Year 1 Mission Statement

Our Mission Statement. In Year 1 we will:	
Be kind by sharing and helping everyone.	
Listen when someone is talking.	
Try our best and keep going even when things are hard.	
Take care of our things and our classroom.	
Use gentle hands and feet to keep everyone safe.	

Learning

As you can see from the newsletter, we have a broad and varied curriculum.

The children are aware of their targets and have discussed with adults what they need to work on. When marking work children's achievements and their next steps are identified.

Children are aware of the progress they are making in learning their bookmarks through a pictorial initiative in class.

Behaviour

Children know how important it is to work as a team and class reward points are given when all children show positive and outstanding behaviour.

Children are also encouraged to take ownership of their own behaviour.

Those who do not follow the school rules lose golden time in five minute increments. When children demonstrate an improvement in their behaviour they earn back their golden time. Each week twenty minutes is set aside for children to enjoy Golden Time with a range of activities, such as a DVD, extra playtimes or choosing time.

Attendance

We will promote the importance of regular attendance and punctuality and discuss how missed days and late arrivals have an impact on learning.

We want to increase the number of children with 100% attendance and punctuality each half term.

Class management

All the children are expected to show respect for things in the classroom and around school. They are all involved in making sure the classroom and cloakrooms are kept tidy and safe.

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Alongside this, specific roles are given to children on a rota. As we want to develop children's awareness to environmental issues, some of the specific jobs are to make sure that the lights are turned off when the classroom is empty and that the class recycling bin is emptied appropriately.

We are always pleased to share children's personal achievements in and out of school.

A display board is located in the classroom where children's efforts are acknowledged and regularly changed to maintain motivation levels.

Finally...

We very much acknowledge, appreciate and value the support you give your child.

The school/home partnership plays an extremely important role in your child's progress and their learning journey.

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Year 1 team.