



The  
Year Ahead  
in  
Robin Class  
(Year 1)

2022-2023



## Staff

**Mrs Maree Bowmer – Class Teacher, Music Subject Leader and RE Subject Leader.**

-teaching in class Monday to Thursday.

**Mrs Ellen Andrews – Class Teacher**

-teaching in class Wednesday afternoon and Friday.

**Supported by:**

**Mrs Lorraine Carter, Teaching Assistant**

-in class Monday, Wednesday and Friday

## Our Class

There are 27 pupils in Year 1. We teach in a mixture of whole class, half class and smaller groups, giving the children opportunity to demonstrate what they are learning in their play throughout the day, taking ownership of their learning and showing what they understand and have learned in a variety of ways.

## Expectations

We have high expectations of each child in our class in each aspect of their school life, including class-work, behaviour and attitude to others.

The children worked hard to come up with our 'Class Rules' which reflect the whole school ethos:

- 1) Be brave and 'give it a go'
- 2) Use kind hands and kind words
- 3) Choose it, use it, put it away (find a home for everything!)
- 4) Be the best you can be

Every day is a new day. We emphasise the positive and reward good behaviour with 'house points.' As you will know, our houses are :-

Rashford

Yousafzai

Rosen

Packham

In Robin Class, when the children are awarded a house point, they put a marble in a measuring cylinder. They can clearly see how many points their house are getting and strive to help their team achieve more.

## Merit Certificates and House Points

Children, either as individuals, groups or the whole class, can receive a Merit Certificate for being 'the best they can be'. These are awarded during our Friday Celebration Assembly.

We are always on the look-out for children doing their best – in behaviour, attitude, kindness, perseverance, presentation, improvement or helpfulness. We award house-points for which we use marbles put in measuring cylinders in the classroom. These are added up each Thursday and announced in assembly on a Friday.



## Communication

As you will be aware from Mrs How's information at the start of term, all communication is to be through the office at the following email address:- [office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk)

Please be aware that teaching staff will not be able to reply immediately as they will be in class teaching all day but will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

Please ensure that you report absences (planned or otherwise) to the office by telephone.

Please read 'The Star' every week to keep up-to-date with general school news and information specific to Year 1. Important information is generally shared by **Parentmail** so please make sure you are signed up and check this regularly.

The **school website** is full of useful information. [www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk](http://www.steeplemorden.cambs.sch.uk)

We have a Year 1 class page where we post information about the work we have been doing in class, along with photos of lessons, school projects and special events, a class timetable and news about our curriculum themes.

## Parent Consultations

There are regular timetabled meetings with parents throughout the school year. This term Parent Consultations will be able to be in person once again! – more information to follow regarding this.

<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Individual meetings after school to discuss settling in/exchange of information (10mins).
<b>Thursday 20<sup>st</sup> October</b>	
<b>March – dates tbc</b>	Consultation to discuss progress. (10 mins)
<b>July</b>	End of year written reports

## End of Year 1 Phonic Screening Check

The Government requires children at the end of Year 1 to complete a Phonics Screening check. This is usually completed at the beginning of June. There will be more information sent home about this nearer the time. In the meantime, reading to your child a range of fiction and non-fiction books will increase their vocabulary and practicing their reading will help raise confidence throughout the year.

## Physical Education

P.E. usually takes place on Mondays and Thursdays. Your child's P.E. kit needs to remain in school **all week**. The children need to bring **named P.E kit** in a separate bag: plain black or blue shorts, t-shirt (in house colours) and socks & trainers for outdoors – please note that plimsolls or similar are not suitable outdoor PE footwear and we usually undertake indoor PE with bare feet. Since we will be going outside for at least one of our PE lessons, children will also need jogging bottoms and sweatshirts (without hoods) to wear in colder weather. For Health & Safety reasons, children should remember to bring hair ties for long (below shoulder length) hair. Ideally, no jewellery should be worn in school and earrings **must** be removed for PE lessons.



## Helping your child at home

### Autumn Term Curriculum Theme:- 'This Is Me'

We are focussing on learning about our bodies and the wonderful things they can do this half term, moving on to thinking about where we live and our place in the world later on.

The following are activities that you are able to begin to work on straight away with your child at home:-

**Maths:** We are particularly keen for your child to be confident in Maths and you have a key role to play in this. Please take any opportunity to use number skills in everyday life e.g., count on the way to school – forwards and backwards in 1s to start with – we often find children stumble over going from 33, 32, 31, 30.... to 29. It is the same when they count backwards past any 10s number – practising will really help with number fluency. Starting to count in 10s, 2s and 5s (forwards then trying to count backwards) will give them a head start later in the year. We are really focusing on understanding number this term – how we write them (correctly!) and solving number problems, such as working out 1 more and less, counting on from any given number, etc. If you can set up a 'shop' and start to recognise coins, talk about the time, 'feel' and compare how heavy things are when cooking or playing, play numerical board games etc. as these things will all help. It can make such a difference to a child's confidence levels if they see that Maths is fun and not something to be scared of! Please reinforce this message at home.

**Reading:** Your child will read every day in school: This may or may not involve their reading book! The children will be encouraged to read labels, notices and instructions which gives them a reason to want to read. Once your child is starting to read letters and words, do encourage them when they start to read everything! Visiting the library is free – use it if you are able to. Non-fiction books which you can share together are just as fun as stories. If your child can also hear stories, read or told, we firmly believe this supports their developing language skills, which in turn will enable them to be better readers and story-tellers – We aim to have at least one story every day in school. If you can match this at home, they will have listened to nearly 300 stories during their time in Year 1.

Please do read at home as often as you can and ideally every day (even if they are a fluent reader!)

Your child has been given a Reading Record Booklet and Phonics Log. Please make a short record in here every time you hear your child read at home.


### Library Books:

We aim for your child will be able to choose a library book to bring home each week, or every other week, therefore it will be linked to your child's particular likes and not to their reading ability. Please do find time to enjoy this book together, find out why they chose it and see if they would like to recommend it to a friend! Check the Star for more information about Library Book Change Day.

### Phonics/Spellings:

As you were instructed at the end of last year, our phonics scheme is brand new this academic year. The order of graphemes that your children have learned has not changed, however more have been





added and so there will be a little catch-up required. We have already started this in school. All staff have been trained in their approach and so are competent in delivering the new scheme. Our new scheme encourages children to keep up with their peers through over learning, practise, review and application of what they have learned in their lessons daily.

Look out in the Star for an invitation to Key Stage One parents for a phonics workshop where Mrs Meridew will be talking you through the changes and giving you a lesson!

In the Star each week we will let you know about any new graphemes learned in Phonics as well as the words we have been focussing on. These might be to learn to read or, eventually, to spell. We recommend learning these in more active ways to start with and will include some suggestions in the Star over the next few weeks. Spellings will not be tested formally, but will be expected to improve within the written work your child completes, as appropriate.

### **Trips and Visits:**

As part of our Topic 'Terrific Toys' in the Spring term, we are hoping to be able to invite in a fabulous learning company, 'History off the Page' to enable the children to experience a History of Toys day. The cost of this visit is expected to work out at approximately £18 per child, and pays for a full 9am-3pm experience day. We would need parent volunteers for this day to be a success – more details to follow.

For the last two years, we have been able to hatch ducklings during our Summer 'It's a Bug's Life' Topic, which was an amazing opportunity for all the children and linked in so many areas of the curriculum: from Science to Maths; English to Art and D&T to PSHE. We would love to add this to your child's experience this year, too. The cost of this would be approximately £14 per child. Please contact us if you need more details about these after the Year Ahead meeting.

### **Homework:**

Our greatest need is for you to help your children become interested in books. This may be you reading to them, sharing books with them and helping them learn their phonics and words.

Please read with your child as much as possible – every day would be amazing! Please encourage them to look at their grapheme cards and words daily – practise 6-8 each day – the more times children see letters and words the better the connections in their brain becomes at recognising it effortlessly.

### **Additional Information:**

#### **Water Bottles**

Please could you provide your child with a named water bottle to have in school **every day**. It is very important for the children to be able to help themselves to a drink of water whenever they need it.

#### **Suitable Clothing**

Please make sure that your child comes to school with a cardigan or sweatshirt and a waterproof coat. The weather can be very changeable in the Autumn Term and we will be going outside every day and working in our classrooms with doors and windows open!



## Snacks and Lunches

**Please remember we aim to be a NUT FREE SCHOOL** as we have children and staff in our school who have severe nut allergies. Please do ensure that any food brought into school is nut free.

Children in Year 1 have a healthy fruit snack at break time which we encourage them all to try. This could be apples, pears, bananas, tomatoes, peppers, fresh peas, sultanas. If you would like to send in a snack for your child **please ensure it is a piece of fresh fruit.**

At lunchtimes we have noticed that some of the children might need a little reminder about how to cut up food with a knife and fork. A little bit of practice at home would be very helpful so they are confident to do this themselves in school.

## Languages

The language we will focus on in Year 1 will be **British Sign Language**.

We will focus on the basics such as greetings, colours, numbers and basic classroom language, answering the register, names for items of classroom equipment etc.

Children will also learn a little about Deaf culture and the challenges encountered by children with hearing loss. We will learn through watching videos, playing games and giving everything a go! ... the whole point is to have fun while learning.

## Parental Help

Parental help is much appreciated and so if you would like to help us in Year 1, so if you can spare an hour or so, do let us know and all relevant checks can be carried out. We welcome help hearing readers, helping with library visits, being able to come on local walks.

Help is always needed to keep our library in tip-top order, so if you don't fancy being in the classroom, there are other ways you can help in school – just let one of us know!

If you have any questions about anything please email us via the school office and we will get back to you. [office@steplemorden.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@steplemorden.cambs.sch.uk)

