

# Year 1 Newsletter



Ms Robertson, Dr Bodhanker, Ms Davies, Mr Ahmed, Mrs Safdar,  
Mrs Begum and Ms Bashir

Friday 22nd October 2021

## Happy Half Term

Dear Parents, carers and pupils,

As we come to the end of the first half term of this academic year, it is with great happiness that I can report how well our pupils have transitioned from EYFS into Year 1. They have settled well into Year 1 with their new teachers and have enjoyed exploring their new learning in fun and creative ways.

I would like to say thank you to all those parents who attended out parent sessions linked to Reading in Year 1 and delivering phase 5 phonics. I look forward to seeing lots more of you at the parent sessions taking place in Autumn2.

Rest and relax over the holiday so you can come back healthy and ready to learn lots of new things as our exciting topic 'Journeys' continues, where they'll be exploring the journeys Rama and Sita took as part of the Hindu celebration of Diwali and the journey Mary and Joseph took as part of the Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Have a lovely half term, remember if you are looking for fun challenges you could do over the half term have a look at Dr B's holiday challenge page.

Miss Robertson

Director of Learning – EYFS & Year 1



## Dates for your Diary...

**Friday 22nd October break up for October Half Term**

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**Monday 1st November return to school**

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**Tuesday 2nd November — Parents Evening**

**Wednesday 3rd November — Parents Evening**

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**Friday 12th November— Phase 2 Phonics Workshop**

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**Wednesday 17th November—Phase 3 & 4 Phonics Workshop**

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**Friday 19th November—Children in Need day**

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**Wednesday 24th November—Phase 5 Phonics Workshop**

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**Wednesday 15th December —Pantomime & Christmas Dinner at School**

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**Friday 17th December break up for October Half Term**

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**Please check the Waverley School website for updates to the calendar**

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# Learning Through Diversity

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**'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world' Nelson Mandela**

**Come to school, on time, every day, ready to learn!**

School Target	97%	97%
	Summer 2	Autumn 1
Primary Phase Attendance	92.1%	94.3%
Year 1 Attendance	93.4%	92.6%
1A	96.4%	96.0%
1B	89.6%	94.4%
1C	94.6%	91.1%
Winning Class	1A	1A
Class with the lowest attendance	1B	1B

**"80 percent of success is showing up."**  
-Woody Allen

Attendance during Summer 2 for the whole of the Primary Phase was **94.3%**. We are on the way to getting our attendance to where it needs to be– but are not there yet! In order to reach and exceed our target, we need all families on board and all pupils in lessons learning. Attendance for this half term, to date, in Year 1, is **94.3%**. The school target of 97% attendance for each pupil is more important now than ever. With months of learning lost due to COVID-19, pupils are working hard to meet the expectations of the new year group and missing even a day puts each child behind.

Each day new learning is shared with pupils. Every day that your child misses from school results in

them missing out on education and essentially falling behind. It is every parent and carers responsibility to ensure that all pupils are in school, every day and on time.

**Attend today, achieve tomorrow!**

All **Year 1 pupils** should be in school for **8.40 am**. The register is taken at this time. Any pupil not in school at this time is marked late, which is recorded on the register and negatively impacts on your child's attendance percentage. Primary doors and gates open 15 minutes before the official start time ready for registration. This allows pupils enough time to get to their class, take off their coat and bag and be ready for learning to commence at 8.40 am.

The school has a dedicated absence line and if your child is absent for any reason please call on **0121 566 6600, using the pupil absence line on option 1** and leave a message. Medical and dental appointments should be arranged outside of the school day to ensure that pupils are in school and are learning. If, however, an appointment can only be obtained at a certain time, for example hospital appointments, an appointment card must be presented to authorise your child's appointment.

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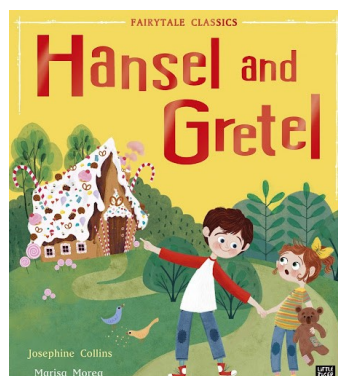
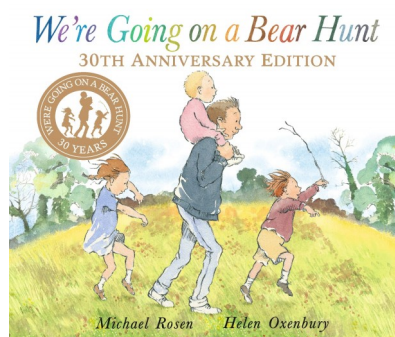
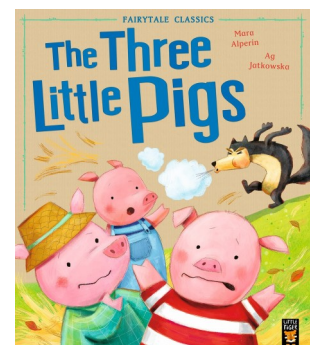
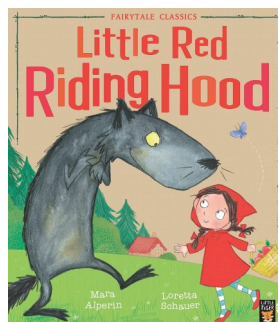
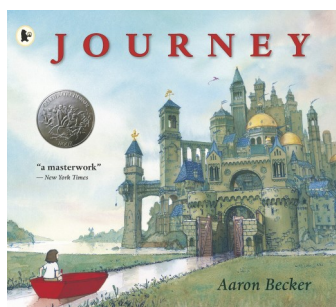
**'I do believe something very magical can happen when you read a good book' J.K. Rowling**

## We are Readers

This half term we have explored a range of books in whole class reading that link to our topic 'Journeys' and our writing focus fairy tales. We discussed why the characters were going on the journey, how they felt and what the journey involved. We then had a go at answering questions about the books we have read.

Lots of these books are available online—why not read it or watch it with your child and ask them to tell you about the story and the journey the characters went on.

Maybe you will discover a new family favourite.



### Half Term Challenge

What books do you have at home that involve a journey?

Can you write about the book and bring it in to show your teacher?

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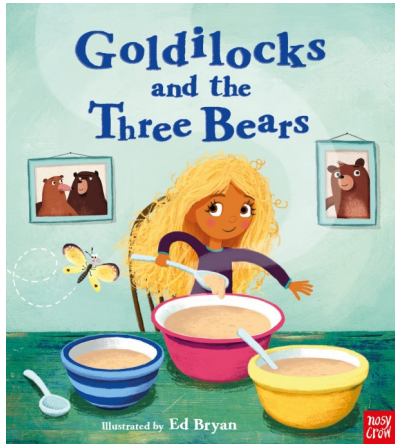


## We are Writers

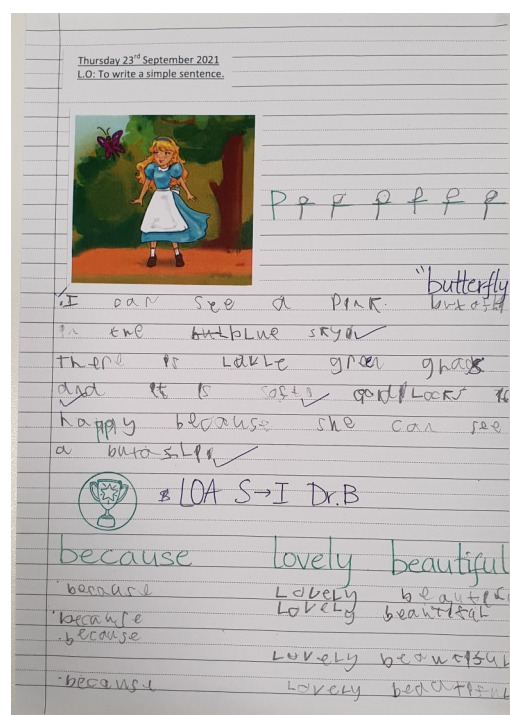
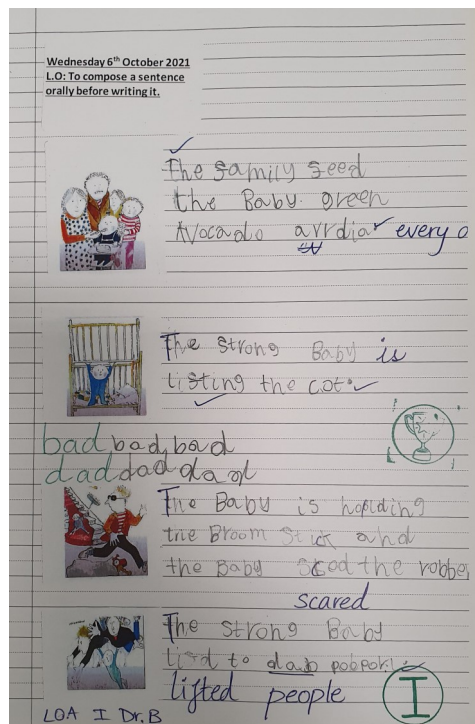
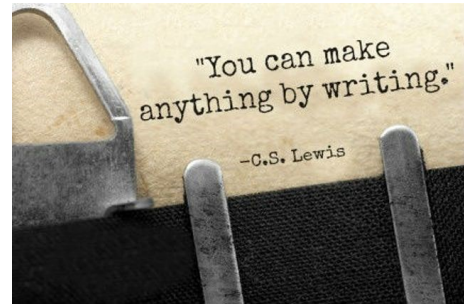
This half term has been very exciting for year 1!

We have been learning about traditional fairytales. First, we learnt what

fairytales are about and then we read and studied wonderful traditional fairytales: Little Red Riding Hood, The Three Little Pigs and the Big Bad Wolf and Hansel and Gretel. We then moved on to our main text 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears'. We applied all the knowledge we had learnt previously to explore the fairy tale.



The children loved hot-seating where they pretended to be different characters from the story. The children loved acting out the story and learned how to describe characters and scenes using adjectives. We discussed how the characters felt during the story during different events, and if they would do anything differently.



We ordered the story, wrote sentences about the story using our phonics knowledge. We then moved on to exploring adjectives. We wrote character descriptions and descriptions about the three bears cottage.

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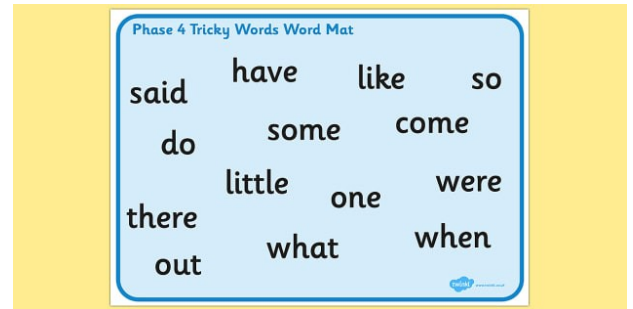
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## Phonics

This half term we have been exploring phase 4 phonics. Learning how to read words with adjacent constants and longer, polysyllabic words. As part of phase 4 we have learnt additional tricky words — can your child read these words to you? Can they write them in a sentence?



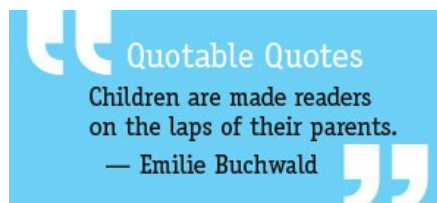
## How can I help my child?



*Scan me*

Want to help your child practise their phonics skills over the half term? Scan the QR code and watch some lessons from Year 1 Autumn Term.

During the last week of half term we moved on to Phase 5 phonics, we will continue to explore phase 5 for the rest of the half term. Please support your child to move their learning forward by listening to them read their reading book as often as possible, encourage them to read books on Bug Club and help them with their phonics homework.



## Homework

Over the half term holiday please help your child practise their phonics using your children using the **homework** packs provided.

To support your child further online phonics lessons are available here:  
Just scan the code with your phone's camera.

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## We are scientists & Geographers

### In topic this term we have been geographers and scientists!

In geography we have been exploring our community. We explored where we're located within our community and in our school. The children achieved this by exploring and walking around our school grounds and exploring our community on Google Earth. Within this topic the children have learnt about aerial view and have drawn aerial views of the classroom and the school. This supported children in drawing a map of the school. Before we drew a map the children explored different maps such as physical maps, treasure maps and travel maps and then learnt about features of a map such as a key. Throughout this topic the children have become confident with identifying physical and human features. The children showed this during discussions and within their map drawings in their key. The children have worked really hard throughout this topic. They are always eager in topic lessons and have enjoyed learning about our community.



In science we have been learning about animals and humans. During this topic we have learnt more about ourselves such as what our senses are and what body part is used for each sense. We were able to explore and use our senses in the game 'What's in my bag?' where our teachers hid items in a bag such as slime and lavender and we had to use our senses to work out what was in the bag. During this topic we have

also learnt and identified lots of different common animals. We have learnt that animals can be grouped into two main groups vertebrate and invertebrate and how vertebrate animals are grouped further into mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds and fish. We have also learnt about animal's diets and can identify carnivores, herbivores and omnivores. We have really enjoyed learning about lots of different animals and visiting Twycross Zoo.



When we return we will be learning about foods of the world as part of the design and technology curriculum. Within this the children will have the opportunity to explore different healthy foods from around the world. The children will use these experiences to plan and create their own healthy dish. Within this process the children will explore different kitchen utensils and learn how to use these safely, explore and learn about healthy eating schemes such as the Eatwell Plate, learn how to prepare, cook and work hygienically and learn how to write a recipe.

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## We are chefs



As part of our exploration into 'Goldilocks and the Three Bears' we became chefs—exploring, reading and following instructions for how to make porridge. Year one children learnt the importance of instructions by helping their teachers to make a jam sandwich—the teachers got into quite a mess as the instructions were too vague. Children quickly learnt that instructions have to be clear and explicit!

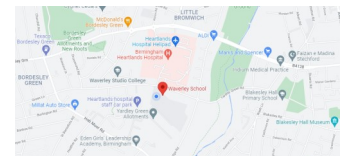
Our investigation into instructions cumulated in us following a recipe's, including collecting the list of ingredients to make delicious porridge and learnt how to list out the utensils and ingredients needed to make porridge. Once we had followed the instructions the children had a go at writing their own set of instructions about how to make mouthwatering porridge.

## We are map readers



This half term as part of our topic 'Journeys' we have been exploring maps. We have looked at maps of the school, local area and the world.

We looked at directions and directional language—the children followed directions and a map to find treasure hidden in the playground. We looked at which way to hold a map and what different things show.



To showcase our map reading skills we were given a map to read when we visited Twycross Zoo in October. When we visited the Zoo as part of our science topic we followed the map to help us make sure we visited all the animals we wanted to visit. As well as ensuring we did not get lost!



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## Twycross Zoo

This term we have been very fortunate to visit Twycross Zoo as part of our learning in the topic 'Animals and Humans'. We were very excited to visit Twycross Zoo's inhabitants and explore lots of different animals. We saw animals from around the world such as tigers, monkeys, parrots, gorillas and zebras. When visiting Twycross Zoo's inhabitants we were able to apply what we had learnt in the classroom to real life experiences such as an animal's diets. We knew that animals were either carnivores, herbivores or omnivores and when visiting each animal, we were able to see first-hand what the animal ate. We also enjoyed reading and listening to our teacher tell us all about the animals we visited from the information poster at each enclosure. We tried really hard to read independently!

We really enjoyed our time at Twycross Zoo and we were so pleased to see and learn about some of our favourite animals.



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**“The More That You Read, The more Things You Will Know, The More That You Learn. The More Places You’ll Go” Dr Seuss**



## Lets Get Reading

Practise your reading with phonetically decodable books.

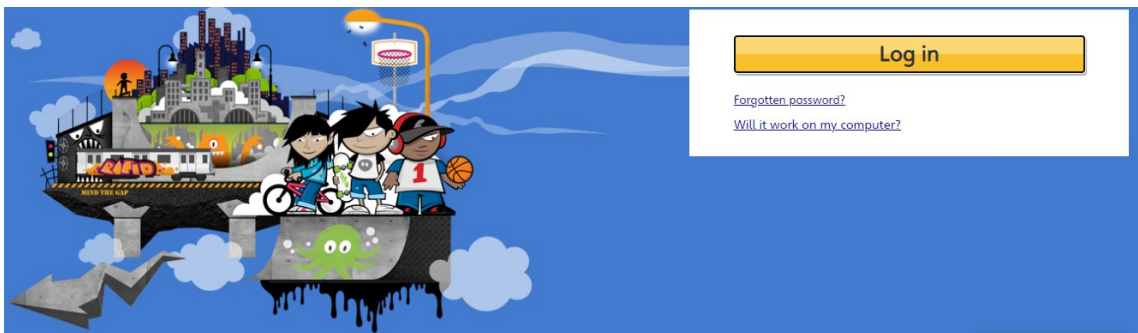
Every child has been issued log in details for their account on Bug Club.

SCAN ME



When you log in you will be asked to enter your child’s username, the password and the school code.

The **school code** is: q76x



All children have been issued with a range of phonetically decodable books, to suit their current reading level. Watch out for the phonic bug when reading a book, click on him and he will ask you a question about the book.



Please use this fantastic resource for accessing reading that is tailored to your child’s reading progress.

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## We are policemen

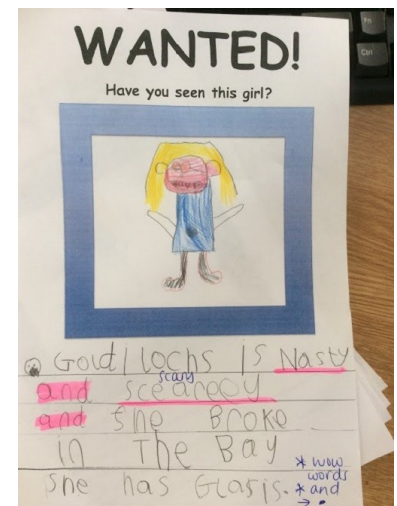
The memorable part of our learning journey this half-term was visiting the Goldilocks crime-scene.



We investigated the area looking for clues for what had happened, writing down any questions we had and had to look for the clues and predict what happened there. The evidence pointed us towards the culprit Goldilocks. We concluded that Goldilocks had broken in, eaten the porridge and broken baby bears chair!

We wrote up our findings and designed wanted posters to catch the villain Goldilocks.

PC Fletcher, our community officer, came into school to personally thank the Year 1 children for their help in apprehending Goldilocks, he thanked pupils for their posters which helped them to track down the villain. Pupils were thrilled to have Mr Fletcher their classes and enjoyed the interacting with him. Mr Fletcher read pupils an apology letter for Goldilocks.



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## Dr B's Holiday Challenge Page



Dr Bodhanker challenges you with:

- ◇ To bake and decorate some cookies and create whole part-part model
- ◇ <https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/> to read and find out more about just about everything. Just keep clicking on the pictures and labels for more information.
- ◇ To use as many different natural resources as you can to create your name. If you find lots of twigs, petals, feathers and leaves you could create your whole family.
- ◇ To find somewhere to daydream for five minutes. Afterwards, draw a picture of and write about your daydream.
- ◇ To write down five positive things about yourself that have come into your thoughts.
- ◇ To build a bridge which should be able to hold a tin of soup or similar object for ten seconds without collapsing.
- ◇ To go for a family shape hunt to see how many different types of 2D and 3D shapes you can find. You could even take photos of them and create a poster when you get home.
- ◇ To create your own pattern of exercise like Joe Wicks PE. Each day, please complete these actions for 30 seconds each: squat, jumps, star jumps, alternate leg stretches lying on back, knee raises to opposite elbow, spiderman lunges, squat thrusts, running on the spot, diagonal toe touches, squat and twist. If you are finding it easy, take a 2 minutes rest and repeat it.

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