



Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

Dear Zebra families,

Welcome back and Happy New Year!

### Learning

We will continue to be teaching Maths, English and phonics each day. In English we will continue to focus on ensuring our sentences include capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. We will be encouraging the children to read their work to check it makes sense and also challenging them to use adjectives to add description, alongside using some of the suffixes we have learnt such as the 'ed' ending. In Maths we will be looking at place value (tens and ones) and exploring the composition of number beyond ten. Our science lessons will involve developing our scientific skills, through the completion of some experiments, as well as sessions focusing on seasonal changes and why these happen. In our history sessions we will be learning about Grace Darling and why she was so significant.

In Spring 2 there will be a focus on plants in science and map skills in geography. We will continue with Learning and Discovery time and using small group times to deliver all other subjects, with the children having must do tasks to complete as well as initiating their own learning.

### Library

Library sessions will remain on Mondays for Zebra class. Please ensure books are returned weekly as your child cannot be issued another book until their previous one is returned.

### P.E

Please ensure your child has a PE kit in school which includes suitable clothing for the weather and trainers. Our PE lessons will continue to be on a Monday and this term Year 1 will have dance lessons led by a dance coach.

### Wellie Wednesday

On Wellie Wednesdays we will enjoy a range of outdoor learning activities. Children will need to have waterproofs and wellies in school as we will go outside whatever the weather. Children will need to arrive in school in their PE kit (white t-shirt, black jogging bottoms and red school jumper), and bring their school uniform in a named bag to



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change into afterwards. Please do ensure your child has spare socks available to change into as these often get wet!

### **Homework**

Reading continues to be a priority in Year 1 and it is expected that children are heard at home at least four times a week. A sapphire gem will be awarded each time your child has completed four reads at home in a single week. Reading journals will be checked the following week and sapphire gems will be awarded. Please remember to write in your child's reading journal when you have heard your child read and praise their achievements. We will also pop in links to supporting their phonics at home as it is crucial children can recall phase 5 sounds as soon as possible. Please regularly review these sounds at home, they can be found in the middle of the journal and there are lots of phonic resources on the school website.

<https://www.pdp.w-berks.sch.uk/phonics-phase-5>

At the back of your child's reading journal, you will find their Purple Mash login. Please feel free to explore the games on Purple Mash with your child. The Bond Bubbles game is a fun way to practice number bonds!

If you have any questions please speak to the team after school.

The Year 1 Team