



Parbold Douglas

CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Wednesday 3rd September 2025

CLASS INFORMATION LETTER: YEAR 1 2025/26

Dear Parents and Friends,

We are delighted to welcome your child to Year 1! As we begin the new school year, please find some helpful information below.

The Year 1 team

The teaching team in Year 1 consists of Miss Cooney (Mon-Wed), Mrs. Churchward (Wed-Fri), Miss Fraser and Mrs. Jones.

Our school day

As a reminder, school begins at **8:55am** for all pupils – please ensure children are consistently punctual so that learning is not missed. Our classroom door will open from 8:45am and we begin each day with our morning Maths activities.

School ends at **3.20pm**.

Attendance

Excellent attendance at school is vital to securing the greatest possible personal development and academic progress for each child. **As we begin the new school year, we expect all families to be committed to excellent attendance.**

What to bring?

Each day, your child should bring a water bottle, snack box and, if needed, a packed lunch. All KS1 children are entitled to a free school meal. Other items, such as reading books, will also be brought to school regularly. In winter, children will need additional items such as hats and gloves.

School 'book bags' are available from our uniform suppliers.

Please can we remind parents that the morning snack should be fruit only.

PE days

Our PE days will be **Tuesday and Thursday** for the first half term. It will switch to Tuesday and Friday for some half terms; we will notify you when these are coming up. On these days, pupils should attend school in PE uniform (in line with our policy) – other sports clothing is not uniform and should not be worn to school.

For more information about uniforms, please see the school website (or the 'September 2025' information letter circulated at the end of the summer term).

Forest School

Year One will be taking part in exciting Forest School activities on site with West Lancashire Sports Partnership in the Autumn Term. Our forest school day will be on Tuesday. **This will start on Tuesday 15th September and continue until Tuesday 22nd November.**

The clothing requirements for this time of year are listed below.

- Woolly hat and scarf
- Gloves

- Thick jacket/ Waterproof coat
- Waterproof trousers
- Warm trousers eg. Jogging bottoms
- Fleece
- Long sleeved sweatshirt/ jumper
- Spare socks
- Wellies/ walking boots/ sturdy shoes
- Trainers to wear when not at Forest School

Please sign the consent form and return it to school as soon as possible.

During this time, we will not have PE on Tuesday.

Homework

Homework will be set for the first time this Friday (5th September). Homework will be uploaded to Showbie on a **Friday evening**.

- ❖ Reading – 5/10 minutes a day
- ❖ 3 spellings (common exception words of the week). Children will be quizzed every **Friday**.
- ❖ Numbots – 15 mins once a week. This is a great resource to make use of!

School reading books

We cannot stress enough the value and importance of reading with your child, to your child and being read to by your child. Just 5-10 minutes daily reading will have an enormous impact on their reading and enjoyment of books. We encourage you to read the same book two or three times; this will allow your child to develop fluency and expression when reading. The children will change their home reading books every **Monday and Friday**. The books they choose are for enjoyment and to encourage fluency and understanding. They should be reading these books very accurately with only very few minor errors. Parents can use the reading record on Showbie to write a small message about how their child is reading, to tell us the pages they have read, or any words/sounds they found challenging. If they would like to, the children can also record themselves reading. The reading record will be checked once a week. The children will receive a phonics book every **Friday** that is closely matched to the phonics they need to know. They will keep this book at home until the following Friday. We will read this book as a class during our Phonics to Fluency sessions.

Curriculum

The Year 1 curriculum map is available on the school website: <https://www.pda.lancs.sch.uk/year-1/>

We encourage you to refer to the curriculum map so you can talk to your child about their learning.

Communication

We greatly value the relationship we have with you and are usually available at the beginning (briefly) or end of each day if you wish to speak with us. Please feel free to contact Miss Cooney or Mrs. Churchward by emailing j.cooney@pda.lancs.sch.uk or j.churchward@pda.lancs.sch.uk. We will respond, during the school week, by email or phone, or will speak to you at collection/drop-off if appropriate. **For more urgent messages during the school day, please email or phone the school office** (e.g. if arrangements have changed in relation to who is collecting your child at home time).

Diary dates

Please refer to the calendar on the school website (and the monthly newsletters) for up-to-date information about upcoming events.

We invite you to join our Phonics Evening with Miss Cooney from **5:30pm-6:30pm** on **Wednesday 24th September**.

Labelling items

Please ensure all items sent to school are clearly labelled. This significantly improves the likelihood of items returning to the correct child if they are lost or misplaced.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding and the safety of children is our **first priority**. Our partnership with you, as parents, is an essential aspect of this. If the school has a concern in relation to your child, we will contact you to discuss how we may be able to offer help and support. We strongly encourage you to communicate with us if you have any concerns regarding your children's welfare, including their mental health and emotional wellbeing. The school can often offer or signpost support. You can find more information on the safeguarding page on our website.

Year 1 Phonics Screener

During their time in Year 1, the children will be taught phonics daily. We use the Read Write Inc Phonics scheme as our teaching resource and the children are taught in small groups tailored to the sounds they are learning. Each half-term, the children will be assessed to check for any gaps in their learning. The phonics screening check is taken individually by all children in Year 1 in England in June. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Phonics Evening. The aim of the session is to give parents more information about how to help support your child with phonics at home, the phonics screener, and to answer any questions you may have.

History – Family Album

This half term we are looking at a topic called 'Family Album' in our history. We will be looking at a 'timeline' of our lives so far and we think the children would love sharing real photographs with each other! If possible, it would be helpful if you could provide the following images of your child. It would help enormously if these could be collated onto an A4 sheet (either a paper copy with the pictures photocopied or via email):

- when newborn/ a young baby
- approximately 1
- approximately 2
- approximately 3
- approximately 4/5 (perhaps a starting school photograph in their school uniform!)

Please send this sheet clearly labelled (approximate ages beside the pictures) inside an envelope with the child's name by **Friday 12th September**.

If you can only provide original photographs, these will be kept safe, photocopied, and returned to you. Any difficulties with this, please let us know.

As part of this unit (and if appropriate) we may also complete our own family tree (grandparents- parents- siblings). We understand some family circumstances could be potentially upsetting for some children, so if you have any concerns, please could you let us know and this will allow us to adapt the topic accordingly.

We are very much looking forward to working alongside you throughout the year ahead.

With best wishes,

Miss Cooney and Mrs. Churchward

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