Dear Year 1 children, families and friends,

Welcome to Year 1! We hope you have had a fun time over the summer holidays and are as excited about starting the new school year as we all are! The team at Morley Memorial is very happy to see you here. We hope that you enjoy the new challenges and approaches to learning that Year 1 has to offer in this friendly and supportive atmosphere, where all children are valued as individuals in order for them to flourish.

**Transition from Early Years to Year 1**

Our aim is to ensure that the children experience a smooth transition from the Early Years into Key Stage One. The Year 1 curriculum builds upon and extends the experiences that children have had in the Early Years. Learning through play will continue to be an important part of the school day, to which we will be adding so that all children remain motivated, enthusiastic and eager learners. Please do not hesitate to contact any of the team if you have any quick questions or queries, however if you wish to discuss any issues at length please make a Parent Surgery appointment through the school office.

**PE**

We encourage children to practise getting dressed at home so that they can change quickly and independently at school for PE and back into their normal clothes.

Both classes have **Indoor PE** every **Thursday,** **Scarlet Class** has **Outdoor PE** every **Wednesday** and **Crimson Class** every **Friday**.Please ensure that every item of your child’s PE kit is clearly labelled and hung on their peg in a named bag.

PE kit should be comfortable and well-fitting and should include:

* A short sleeved T-shirt
* A pair of shorts or leggings
* A pair of long jogging/tracksuit bottoms
* A jumper or hooded jacket
* Well-fitting trainers or plimsolls (which they can run in outside).
* A hair band if children have long or medium length hair

In order to keep children safe, we ask that they avoid wearing jewellery in school. If a child has pierced earrings these should be covered with surgical tape on PE days. (Please note that staff are not permitted to assist with removing or putting in earrings)

**Reading in Year 1**

Your child will be given a reading book to bring home and read once a week. If you wish to change this book more frequently, please support your child by helping them choose an alternative from the same colour band, before school. Children may only have one banded book at a time. When children read with an adult in school, the adult will make a brief comment in the child’s **reading record** about how they got on with the book, or the focus of the reading session. We ask parents and carers to do the same, so that we can maintain good communication between home and school. **The reading record books should be kept inside their books bags to bring to school every day.**

As you know, giving children the opportunity to read and regularly discuss books with an adult can have a huge impact on the development of their literacy skills. Within the day we dedicate as much time as possible to allowing pupils to do this within school, but we also ask that pupils read regularly with adults, siblings or friends at home. We would also greatly appreciate the support of any parents or carers who could volunteer to come into school to listen to children read on a regular basis. If you are interested in volunteering, please see the class teacherto arrange a suitable day and time.

**Book Bags**

All children must bring their book bags **every day** in order to help the school to communicate with parents and carers, and vice versa, as well as ensuring that all school letters, forms, homework and reading records are kept safely. Any letters or reply slips which need to be returned should be given directly to **the class teacher** or to the **School Office** before the morning register.

All book bags should be clearly labelled and should be brought into school each morning and taken home at the end of each day. Book bags can be purchased from the school office.

**The Celebration Tree**

Every Friday children may be selected by us to be awarded a **certificate.** This may be awarded for a number of reasons and we will look for opportunities for every child to receive this at least once every year. Their **leaf** will be displayed on the celebration tree in the school reception and the chosen student will also have their name printed in the weekly newsletter. Please feel free to visit the Celebration Tree with your child before or after school.

**Show and Tell**

In order to support pupils’ speaking and listening skills, and to build self-confidence, we encourage students to bring in items directly relating to the topic to share with the class. These items will be shared during topic time throughout the week.

**End of the school day**

At the end of the day please wait in the playground outside the Year 1 classrooms to collect your child. To ensure all pupils’ safety, children must wait in the classroom until the class teacher has seen the parent or carer who is collecting them and gives them permission to leave. Please write any messages regarding after school arrangements, such as attendance at after school clubs or changes to the person collecting your child, in the class message book which is kept in the letter tray in the classroom.

We appreciate that it can be difficult when collecting more than one child at the end of the school day (3:15pm), but as teachers are often required to attend meetings and have other commitments, such as after school clubs, we do ask that that parents are as prompt as possible when collecting their child. Any children not collect by 3:30pm will wait in the After School Club (located opposite Crimson and Scarlet Class).

**Lost Property**

We encourage pupils to take care of anything belonging to them or others, and ask that all items of clothing and property are clearly labelled in order to help us with this. As we all know, young children inevitable lose things. Please check the Year 1 cloakroom and Whole School Lost Property box (located by the school hall) regularly.

**Other Useful Information**

* Payment for school meals can be made through the online Parent Pay system (please see the School Office for further information), or by sealing a cheque or cash inside a clearly labelled envelope (which can be collected from the school office), this can then be given to the office or to the class teacher before school.
* We encourage all children to drink water throughout the day, each child may bring their own named bottle into the classroom. This will encourage the child to be responsible for their own bottle, which will can be taken home on Fridays to be washed.
* Shortly we will be starting to visit the school library once a week. Crimson Class will visit the library on a **Tuesday** and Scarlet Class on a **Monday**. Each child is allowed to borrow one book (provided they have returned their previous one).

We hope you find this letter helpful. As mentioned before if you have any other questions or concerns please have a quick chat with your child’s class teacher. Further information regarding Parent’s Evenings and Parent Surgeries will be sent soon.

Yours sincerely,

The Year 1 Team