

Abbey Gate Prep School  
Welcome to Kingfishers  
Year 1

Class Information

Dear Parents

We would like to welcome you and your child to Year 1 and look forward to an exciting year ahead. We hope your child will enjoy their time in Year 1 and will build on the skills and knowledge they have learnt in Reception class.

Year 1 is the first year in Key Stage 1 and the children have many different routines and teaching styles to come to terms with after being in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). The children will be introduced to a rich and exciting curriculum. They begin their weekly P.E lessons at the Northgate Arena, in addition to meeting many new topics and subject areas. They take part in daily literacy, Intense Jolly phonics and mathematics lessons, where they are taught at their individual level and challenged to their full potential.

There is an emphasis on encouraging our young Year 1 children to become more independent, not just academically but also in looking after themselves, such as changing for P.E, tidying away their belongings and being responsible for their homework files, their library area and their desks and personal trays. This will prepare them for the challenges that lie ahead and support them in becoming well-rounded and confident individuals. We encourage all our Year 1 children to come into the classroom independently and take responsibility for organising their own belongings.

When your child moves into Year 1 they will be given reading books, weekly spelling tests and homework once a week.

If there is anything else you need to know please make an appointment to come and see us.

Kind regards,

Miss Coppack

The Curriculum

Your child will study a wide range of subjects during their time at Abbey Gate Preparatory School. Knowing about the National Curriculum at Key Stages 1 and the subjects that are taught can help you to support your child's learning. Although each subject is planned separately, different curriculum areas are often linked together as a topic so that relevant and interesting contexts are provided for the development of skills and understanding.

We continue to monitor and review our learning and teaching in order to provide the best education for our pupils.

## The Core Subjects

### Literacy

In line with the updated literacy framework, literacy units focus on one particular genre at a time and last between two to four weeks. As well as reading and writing, literacy involves the development of speaking and listening skills. Your child will learn through a variety of approaches to teaching literacy through regular, dedicated literacy lessons and in other subjects in the curriculum.

### Writing

Children are encouraged to write independently and begin to develop sentence structure. We have begun to use an exciting new programme called 'stories for writing' in literacy which encourages children to write creatively and use more descriptive language. In year 1 your child will cover topics on adjectives, instructions, labels, captions, recall and recount, fairy tales, poetry, questioning, independent descriptive story planning and writing and rhyme.

### Phonics

At Abbey Gate school we follow the Jolly phonics scheme. The children take part in two 45 minute intense phonic lessons a week. These lessons are aimed at providing children with letter and sound knowledge, to support reading, improve handwriting and pencil grip, focus on fine motor skills using cutting activities and plasticine challenges to strengthen finger muscles, memory games to help concentration, and key word practice. These lessons prove to be successful and the children are always engaged and enthusiastic.

### Reading

Your child will progress through Oxford reading tree, Ginn 360 and New way reading schemes. These are chosen according to individual reading levels which are tested at the start of year 1. All children read individually with the class teacher at least 3 times a week. Daily home communication records are sent home so that teachers and parents can communicate daily about their child's reading and progression.

### Spellings

Spelling tests are carried out every Monday morning. Your child will be given a set of either 5 or 10 spellings depending on their capability. Each test focuses on a sound and contains key words and a tricky word at the end to challenge the children.

### Numeracy

At Key Stage 1, the children are taught mathematics 3 times a week. Teachers support and challenge pupils according to their individual ability in this subject. We cover many mathematical areas such as addition, subtraction, counting on and back in twos, fives and tens, shape and space, measures such as time, money, place value, length, weight, capacity and data handling. Many of the mathematical activities are practical. Two areas that many children find particularly difficult are telling the time and using money and it is very helpful if, at home, you could give your child opportunities to use money and tell the time in real life situations. Children

take part in a variety of practical, 'hands-on' activities, including use of the interactive whiteboard and apparatus.

At Abbey Gate we use a scheme called 'numicon' to support children's addition, subtraction, multiplication, odd and even numbers, money and counting. Numicon is a practical way of aiding children's numeracy skills. The coloured blocks have proven to be a useful resource.

New Heinemann maths books are also used as an extension book in year one.

## Science

The children have a science lesson every week, in which investigational skills are developed alongside knowledge and understanding of topics such as 'ourselves' and 'light and dark'. Group work plays an important part in science lessons and therefore, an ability to co-operate and work sensibly with others is vital.

With being a small school we are able to take the children out of the setting and around the school grounds to collect extra data and information for certain lessons. The children enjoy practical and hands on science lessons where they can observe experiments and topics first hand.

## Foundation subjects

Year 1 join with year 2 for foundation subjects. Although the classes are together the topics run on a rolling curriculum so no child will cover the same topic twice. All work is differentiated to individual needs and year groups. During history lessons your child will experience acting and drama. In year 1 we like to involve the children in experiences and journeys through time. The children enjoy being someone else and for the day and take their role seriously. They absorb topics quickly through this process.

This year the topics that will be covered are:

### History

Toys from the past

Homes

The Norman Conquest

### Geography

Barnaby bear (maps, local area)

Homes –links with history

Water cycle

Seaside

### R.E

What it means to belong, Christmas.

Beliefs and practice

The church

### French

Your child will receive French lessons. French lessons in year 1 cover numbers, introductions, weather, colours, homes and animals.

### Physical Education

During the Autumn, Winter and Spring term your child will have their sports lessons at the Northgate Arena with myself and a specialist P.E coach. Children are taken and picked up by coach and are back at school for home time. Each term sports sessions are changed. This year children will take part in handball, basketball, gymnastics and athletics lessons.

During the summer term children use the playing field for their lesson. P.E kit stays in school and is returned at the end of each term.

#### ICT and Art

Children have a lesson of ICT and Art each week. Main programmes used in ICT are paint and early essentials which is used mainly in maths lessons. The children are taught how to log in and out of the computer and can access known programmes independently.

Art- In year 1 your child will develop their creativity and imagination by exploring visual, tactile and sensory qualities of materials and processes. This subject is closely linked each week with other areas of the curriculum.

#### Music

The children are guided in music by a specialist who is a very experienced and accomplished musician. We regularly have concerts and frequently invite parents in to school to watch their child perform. At Christmas year 1 take part in the nativity as well as the carol concert at All Saints Church in Hoole.

#### Homework

Homework is started in the New Year. Children will be given one piece a week which is to be completed independently and is linked to topics covered that week in school. Subjects are changed weekly.

#### Assessment

Continuous informal assessments and tests are carried out weekly in year 1, and subject topic assessments at the end of each term. This is to ensure that all children are supported in areas they may struggle with and need to recap. App formal assessments are carried out in March each year to provide us with a level at which your child is at with reading, writing, speaking and listening, numeracy and science.