



Providing the rich soil that enables
our children to develop deep roots and flourish.

Friday 5th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

AUTUMN TERM 2025 – YEAR 1

I hope that you all had a fantastic Summer break and had some well-deserved rest and time with your families.

I would like to welcome the parents of the new Year 1 children. I am looking forward to working with you all and this letter will detail some of the routines that are in place, which are different to the EYFS in Dexter Class. Your children will now be taught and will follow the expectations of the National Curriculum. Life in Key Stage One is very different but I will do my best to make sure that the transition is smooth. Before the new Dexter Class become full time, all Year 1 children will have the opportunity, in the afternoons, to utilise Dexter Class for continuous provision. Children have been provided with a Year 2 buddy to help them settle into Hereford life.

Phonics will continue to be taught daily. They have previously been taught both Phase 3 and Phase 4 sounds. Now that the children are in Year 1, they will learn Phase 5 sounds. These will all be new sounds to the children. All reading books are matched with the sounds that they have been taught.

Reading phases include Phase 3 (8 weeks of books), Phase 4 (4 weeks of books) and Phase 5 (25 weeks of books). You can see by the sticker on your child's home school book as to which phase they are in. Please bear in mind that children will now learn Phase 5, so ideally would be nearing the end of Phase 4 or beginning of Phase 5 to be on track. It is imperative that children read daily so that they become confident and fluent readers, keeping up with the new sounds and reading books. You will also see the letters D or C on the books, which stand for: D = decodable and C = challenge.

All reading records and books are checked and changed twice weekly, on a Monday and a Thursday but are needed in school daily along with their reading records. Please write in your child's reading record about how they have got on with the books, noting any difficulties they may have experienced. Please note, on occasions we may ask children to re-read books to aid their fluency. More information about all of this will be discussed at the Phonics' Evening. The date for this is Wednesday 17th September 2025 and more information will be sent out in the upcoming weeks.

As well as phonics, children receive 3 weekly reading lessons. In these lessons, they are taught the skills of a reader. Children will read a wide range of texts within class, so please don't be alarmed if their home-school book is not always read by the child, with an adult in school. However, if your child has read their home-school book with an adult in school, it is still important that they read the book at home too. As mentioned, later in the term, we will hold a Phonics' Evening to discuss the teaching of phonics. It would be beneficial for you to attend as it will talk you through the Statutory Phonics' Screening Check in which Year 1 children will sit in June 2026.

Along with daily reading, children will receive weekly spelling homework. Please encourage your children to read the words and practise the spellings each day. They will all contain the new sounds taught and tricky words that they have been taught that week. Year 1 children will receive their homework on a Friday and will need to be returned on a Thursday. Y2 will receive their homework on a Monday and will need to be returned on a Friday. Homework expectations can be found in the front of their homework books.

We spend a lot of money in school on reading and exercise books so please keep them in the zip case provided so that they stay in good condition. We ask you not to put water bottles inside book bags in case they leak.

We wear our school uniform with pride and children are only permitted to wear only simple stud earrings and a watch. Please could we ask that hair is tied back and if your child would like to wear a hair accessory, it is plain

and simple and in our school colours. Please also note, no wrist or loom bands, nail varnish or stick on tattoos please.

The children will receive two weekly PE lessons, both of which will be delivered by me. These will be delivered on a Thursday and Friday. Children can come into school on these days, in their PE kits and trainers. If you require any new kit due to it being outgrown, please return the old kit, in good condition, to Mrs Russell and we will arrange a replacement kit.

On a Friday the children will also have Outdoor Learning, which is taught by Miss Savery, Whilst Mrs Greenwoods remains on maternity leave. Children will need to have a **separate** change of clothes for this lesson. This should include a long sleeved t-shirt and leggings/trousers. In the colder months, they will need more layers. Please also ensure that children have spare footwear. It can get muddy in the Planny so wellies or old trainers would be preferable. We will provide waterproofs to all children, unless they wish to wear their own.

If your child does not have the appropriate kit, they may not be able to participate and will receive a slip home notifying you of this.

Please provide your children with a water bottle. These will be sent home daily to be washed and can be re-filled by the children at any time in the day. They are encouraged to drink regularly. Fruit is provided by the school at break times but if you wish to send in a snack with your child, that is also fine but please ensure that it is a healthy snack. Milk is also available but you must sign up for this. It is not provided free of charge in KS1.

Our class page will give you an overview each week of the Amberley Immersion Curriculum. For those of you that are not familiar with the Amberley Immersion Curriculum (AIC), this is the teaching of our Foundation Subjects: Science, Geography, History, Art, Music and DT Food. These subjects are taught in blocks of 1-2 weeks. The overview for each block of the AIC is placed on our class page so that you are able to see the skills, knowledge and vocabulary taught. If you think you may be able to bring expertise to any of these areas, please don't hesitate to get in touch, we would love to have you in supporting!

If there are any questions that you do have, please do not hesitate to speak to me. You can email me directly on shamilton@amb.dgat.org.uk or contact me via the class page – this goes straight into my inbox. Alternatively, I am usually at the gate in the morning and at the end of the day so please catch me then, or make an appointment.

I look forward to working with you all.

Kind regards,

Mrs S Hamilton
Hereford Class Teacher