*Miss A Lavelle*
*Head Teacher BEd (Hons) NPQH*

*Miss K Maryon BEd (Hons) NPQH*
*Deputy Head teacher*



***Mereworth Community Primary School***
*"Lasting learning experiences for life"*

*The Street*
*Mereworth*
*Maidstone*
*Kent*
*ME18 5ND*

*Tel: (01622) 812569*

*Email:office@mereworth.kent.sch.uk*
*www.mereworth.kent.sch.uk*

Friday 4th September 2026

## Year 1 - Term 1 2026

# Dinosaurs

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to Year 1! We hope you have all had a super summer holiday and are ready for our first term of learning in Year 1.

During our first term, we will be reading a variety of dinosaur books, both fiction and non fiction. We will then explore Harry and the Bucketful of Dinosaurs by Ian Whybrow, using the story to introduce new vocabulary and practise writing sentences using capital letters and full stops. In science, we will be investigating types of animals and in history we will be learning about toys throughout time. Please see the topic web for more details across the curriculum.

This is always a busy first term for the children as they settle into their new learning environment and get used to the new routines. Last term, the children visited the Year 1 classroom for three transition sessions. It has been lovely for us to get to know them, and I hope that it has made the children feel comfortable, with a sense of belonging, during the transition into Year 1.

We know that the children will settle quickly, but if you do have any concerns about their transition, please do let me know so that we can work together to support your child.

## Phonics

This term in phonics we will be focusing on blending longer words using the phase 3 sounds. Additionally we will be learning some new 'Harder to Read and Spell Words'. These are:

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| said | so | have | were |
| out | like | some | come |
| there | little | one | do |
| children | love | | |

Please help your child with reading and spelling these words at home too, as we will be completing an assessment at the end of Term 1 to see how many of the words they can remember.

## Reading

**Reading Books**

Reading books will be changed throughout the week to support your child's reading development.

- Your child will receive a new phonics book every Friday.
- Reading scheme books will be changed by the children on Mondays and Wednesdays.
- Reading scheme books provide children with opportunities to develop their reading skills and increase their exposure to a wider range of vocabulary.

*Miss A Lavelle*
*Head Teacher BEd (Hons) NPQH*

*Miss K Maryon BEd (Hons) NPQH*
*Deputy Head teacher*



***Mereworth Community Primary School***
*"Lasting learning experiences for life"*

*The Street*
*Mereworth*
*Maidstone*
*Kent*
*ME18 5ND*

*Tel: (01622) 812569*

*Email:office@mereworth.kent.sch.uk*
*www.mereworth.kent.sch.uk*

- Throughout the term, we will regularly track and assess your child's reading progress. Children will move to a different reading level when appropriate, based on their progress and confidence.

Please read with your child **at least five times a week**. During your reading time, ask your child questions about the book and talk about what they have read. Discussing characters, events, vocabulary and what might happen next will help to deepen their understanding of stories and texts and develop their comprehension skills.
Thank you for your continued support with your child's reading at home.

**Weekly Notable Events**

| | |
|---|---|
| Monday: | **Reading scheme book changed** |
| Wednesday: | **Reading scheme book changed**<br>**Home learning** to be completed and handed in for marking. Please encourage your child to take this out of their folder and put it into the home learning box when they come into class. |
| Friday: | **Phonics book changed**<br>**Reading records** will be checked and stamped.<br>**Homework books** go home. New homework to be set on Numbots or an English task in their books. |

**High Frequency Words**
Your child will also receive a copy of their 'High Frequency Words'. Although this concept is a continuation from Year R, we have updated our key words list. This may mean that your child could move down a level when retested. Please do not worry about this, as this is due to a different set of words. It may mean that your child moves down, but then moves up very quickly once they know the extra words. It is really important the children are learning to read and write these words and can apply them in their writing. There are 10 sets in total and we would hope that most children finish these by the end of Year 1.

**To summarise, the expected home learning for Year 1 is:**

- Reading 5 times per week with the date and a comment in the reading record
- Learn High Frequency words and Phonics words
- 1 piece of maths or English homework per week

This week, your child will bring their home learning book home for the first time. Their home learning this weekend is **to decorate the book with pictures/stickers/wrapping paper to personalise it.** This really helps the children to recognise their book when we give them out each week. Please send the decorated book back into school for your child to put into the home learning box anytime from Monday to Wednesday.

**Reminders:**
**Long Hair:**
If your child's hair is below shoulder length, please ensure that it is tied back every day. Please stick to school colours. Loose long hair is distracting and also more susceptible to head lice.

**Uniform:**
Please ensure that all items of clothing at clearly labeled, in particular jumpers, cardigans and fleeces. Additionally, please ensure that you child has a named water bottle in school every day.

*Miss A Lavelle*
*Head Teacher BEd (Hons) NPQH*

*Miss K Maryon BEd (Hons) NPQH*
*Deputy Head teacher*



***Mereworth Community Primary School***
*"Lasting learning experiences for life"*

*The Street*
*Mereworth*
*Maidstone*
*Kent*
*ME18 5ND*

*Tel: (01622) 812569*

*Email:office@mereworth.kent.sch.uk*
*www.mereworth.kent.sch.uk*

**PE:**

Our PE lesson is on a Tuesday afternoon. If your child cannot participate in PE, please advise us of the reason in writing by email. If your child has pierced ears, please either remove the earrings or fully cover them with tape/plasters before coming into school in the morning. Teachers are not allowed to remove or tape earrings.

**Forest school:**

I will communicate a date for forest school later this term. A reminder that children must wear long sleeves and a long sleeved top, the children will not be allowed to attend forest school if they are not dressed correctly. This is part of the risk assessment. If children would like to play in the stream, they must, wear wellies and either waterproof trousers or an all in one.

We are really looking forward to working with you and your child and know we are going to have a fantastic year in Year 1. If you do have any concerns at any point throughout the year, please do not hesitate to speak to me. Our class email is class1@mereworth.kent.sch.uk

I really enjoyed meeting many of you on Wednesday 2nd September for our 'Meet the Teacher' event. Thank you for your support.

Miss Knight
Year 1 Class Teacher

sing up Silver Gold Award
New Ways to School gold
Living the Olympic and Paralympic Values
Eco-Schools
Kent County Council
Healthy School
school achievement award
EQualities