

Dear Parents and Carers of year 1

As a school we are continually reviewing provision of teaching and learning in every year group to ensure children are getting the very best provision. The year 1 team have been working hard to continue to develop the best practise for the children, this includes whole class teaching inputs, small group teaching and 'Discovery Learning'. These different teaching strategies are working well together and the children are enjoying their learning.

We are going to be trialling extending our morning learning session to go throughout the morning rather than stopping for playtime. This is already very successful in reception and gives children a longer amount of time to get deeply engaged in their learning and enables teachers to lead quality group teaching and whole class teaching alongside 'Discovery Learning'. We have gathered pupil voice too and a very large majority want to continue their learning through 'Discovery Learning' rather than stop for playtime. Many children find the transition to morning playtime difficult as they want to continue what they are doing and not stop, and we know it takes children an extended period of time to get fully involved and engaged in their learning. The children will still have a 45 minute playtime during their lunch break so they can access the adventure trail and playground resources during this time.

This will be trialled over the next few weeks and we will keep you informed as to how it is working, and will continue to gather pupil voice too. Please do speak to the year 1 team or myself if you have any further questions.

Kind regards

Lucy Whiffin and the Year 1 Team

Please see below for more information about learning in year 1 and how 'Discovery Learning' works.

What is 'Discovery Learning'?

Discovery learning is a play based approach to learning (Also called Continuous Provision - CP) and sits alongside directed teaching and learning approaches that we use. We are committed to developing a love of learning and understand the value of play to foster this. We see children as active partners in their learning, not passive recipients of it. Our learning values of responsibility and independence demonstrate our desire for children to understand what makes a good learner, and how to develop good learning behaviour that will last them a life time. This child-centered, play approach, based on an understanding of child development is delivered by excellent staff, and leads to great outcomes, not only academic but holistic outcomes too. Discovery learning starts in early years and is progressive as it moves into Key Stage 1. In year 1 weekly 'discovery challenges' are introduced to give additional responsibility to our children. In year 2 discovery learning becomes topic based.

Discovery Learning also includes our large outdoor area in year 1, which is used for larger construction, role play and one of the favourites - building their own obstacle course where quality collaboration and problem solving happens! The children get lots of play learning experience from this time, and it is similar learning opportunities to morning playtime.