



Top Tips for P1 Parents and Carers

From Miss McGahon and Mrs Haymarch

Miss McGahon and Mrs Haymarch always like to keep parents and carers up to date and share useful hints and hacks - because let's face it - Primary 1 for your little one is a big deal and there's lots you may want to know in advance. Please be aware that current guidance around COVID-19 is ever changing - so some of the points on this list may be subject to change or will change how we typically do things but we will use SeeSaw to keep you updated into the new session. Some of the pointers below should help you as you begin to prepare for P1.

1. Make sure **all** clothing and belongings are clearly labelled with your child's first and second names. Due to COVID-19, for the past year, we have asked that children come to school dressed in their gym kits on the days they have P.E. which does reduce the need for children to take off items of clothes. By August, guidance may be different but it's a good place to start - when buying any clothes for school at all - LABEL, LABEL, LABEL!
2. The children can have a gym bag that stays on their peg at school with their indoor gym shoes. Again, these should be labelled too. Depending on guidance when the new session starts, will determine whether the children keep a full P.E. kit in their gym bag or come to school in polo shirts and shorts on their P.E. days. We will keep you up to date when the time comes.

3. For snack times it is a good idea to send just **one small snack**. A good tip is to bring a piece of fruit with no packaging or pop a snack in a sandwich bag that can be binned. Small boxes and snack bags can often be misplaced - however we are trying to save the planet, so do what works for you! If sending reusable boxes, just make sure it is clearly labelled with first and surname.
4. Water bottles are welcomed but again please make sure these are clearly labelled and only contain water - juice is not allowed.
5. We will sometimes ask for items for show and tell or as part of a topic. This will be included in our weekly homework grid - so you will be aware. We ask that children avoid bringing toys and precious items outside of these times as they can get lost or damaged. Again, with COVID guidelines, it is particularly important that children are not bringing toys from home for obvious, hygiene reasons.
6. Each table has a Learning Toolkit which includes all the stationery that your child will need. They are welcome to bring their own stationery to school however it is not a necessity. It may be that we organise individual Learning Toolkits for children so that no one is sharing resources, as this has been the routine this year to ensure safety and hygiene around COVID-19.
7. Please ensure any letters or money being brought into school is clearly labelled with your child's full name and class and ideally sealed in an envelope.
8. Children in P1-3 are entitled to free school meals. Please take time each morning to go over the menu. It helps the children to decide what they are going to have when they get to the dinner hall. As with the above points, the way in which children have lunch has changed slightly this year with lunch being ordered in advance and brought to the children as the "buffet" style choice is not appropriate due to COVID-19 guidance. We will keep you updated in the new session with exactly how the lunch routine will work.

9. Children will eventually receive a homework folder. This is sent home on a Monday and should be brought back every Friday. These are not sent out for a few weeks into the term as the children get settled into school life.

10. Please encourage your child to come into the cloak room on their own each morning. We promote independence in P1 and encourage the children to hang up their own coat and bag. Don't worry - the teachers and support staff are always there to help! With current guidance, we ask that parents and carers do not enter the school building at all.

11. Currently, 2 metre distancing and wearing face masks must be adhered to in the school playground. We ask that parents and carers respect these guidelines and if they feel they need to communicate with school staff, then please phone the school office or use SeeSaw as a communication tool when necessary and appropriate.