

## PRIMARY 1 NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2024



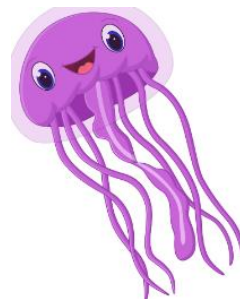
### WELCOME TO PRIMARY 1!

It's been an absolute joy welcoming your children to P1. I'm thrilled to report that they have settled in wonderfully and are already following our class routines with enthusiasm. These first few weeks have been a delight as we have had the pleasure of getting to know each child, hearing all about their holiday adventures, and watching them adapt to our classroom environment.

Our play-based learning approach has been a hit! The children have embraced this style of learning, and it's wonderful to see them engage so naturally with the various activities and spaces within our classroom.

After sharing our holiday news and Miss Audino's stories about Arran and how we all love the beach, we've organised the children into sea-themed animal groups. This system helps with movement around the school and makes it easier for children to find their sitting spots during carpet time, which is our learning time. I wonder if your child can remember what sea animal they are.

Interestingly, this sea theme has sparked lots of curiosity and questions about the ocean among the children. We're excited to explore this child-initiated interest further in our upcoming lessons and activities. It's wonderful to see their natural curiosity driving their learning! To extend this learning at home, why not try making a sea-themed picture together? I wonder what amazing ocean creatures and scenes your child will create.



## CLASS CHARTER

We have also enjoyed creating our class charter of our P1 world family. This has been a wonderful opportunity for us to discuss and share our rights and how we can all make the right choices. It's been inspiring to see the children's understanding of respect, kindness, and responsibility grow through this process.

## HEALTH AND WELLBEING (H&WB)

In our Health and Wellbeing lessons, we've been exploring what makes each of us special and unique. We've been reading lots of wonderful stories that celebrate our individuality. Our absolute favourite has been 'There's Only One You'. The children have thoroughly enjoyed listening to this story and engaging in conversations with their friends about their similarities, differences, likes, and dislikes.

To make this learning experience even more engaging, we used an array of loose parts to create self-portraits. You should have seen the classroom buzzing with creativity! The children had so much fun looking in mirrors together, comparing their features, and recreating them with various materials. I must admit, there were plenty of giggles when they insisted on making a portrait of Miss Audino too!

These activities have not only been great fun but have also helped foster a sense of self-appreciation and respect for others in our class community.



## NUMERACY ADVENTURES

I'm thrilled to share that we've been absolutely blown away by the children's engagement with numbers! Our numeracy activities have been a huge hit, focusing on number recognition, counting, and ordering.

We've been making great use of our loose parts for counting exercises. The children have shown remarkable creativity in using these materials to represent and manipulate numbers. Our number logs have also been invaluable for ordering numbers and improving number recognition skills.

To make our math learning even more engaging, we've been enjoying some fantastic songs and games in class. These activities not only reinforce numeracy concepts but also make learning fun and interactive. I have attached the links for you to try at home 😊

To extend this learning beyond the classroom, I encourage you to explore numbers in your everyday environment with your child. Here are some fun ideas to try at home:

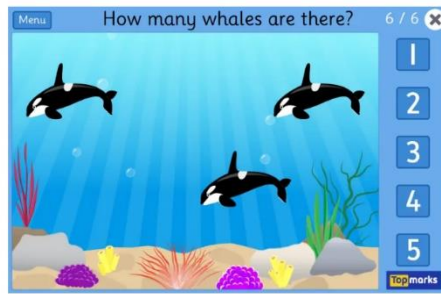
1. **Number Hunt:** Look for numbers around your house or outdoors. You might spot them on door numbers, car license plates, or shop signs.
2. **Counting Games:** Count objects you see during daily activities, like steps on a staircase or items in the shopping basket.
3. **Counting Toys/items at home:** Have your child count their toys, Grapes in a basket or make a number tower using blocks or cubes.



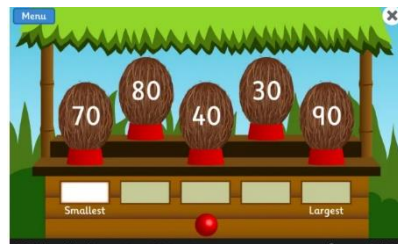
[Big Numbers Song | Count to 100 Song | The Singing Walrus \(youtube.com\)](#)



[Number song 1-20 for children | Counting numbers | The Singing Walrus - YouTube](#)



[Learn to Count up to 10 with Underwater Counting Maths Game \(topmarks.co.uk\)](https://www.topmarks.co.uk)



[Coconut Ordering - Comparing Numbers, Prices, Mass, Length and Capacity \(topmarks.co.uk\)](https://www.topmarks.co.uk)

## **PHONICS PROGRAMME**

I'm excited to announce that we will be starting our phonics programme soon. This is a crucial part of your child's early literacy development, focusing on the relationships between letters and sounds. We'll be introducing new sounds regularly, and I'll make sure to keep you informed about our progress. This way, you can support your child's learning at home as well.

Be on the lookout for updates about the new sounds we're learning. Your involvement in practicing these sounds at home can greatly enhance your child's phonics journey!

In addition to our phonics work, I encourage you to keep sharing stories at home together and reading for pleasure. This not only supports your child's literacy development but also fosters a love for reading that can last a lifetime. Remember, every moment spent reading together is valuable for your child's learning and development. 😊

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Our gym days will be Tuesday and Friday each week. To ensure your child is prepared for these sessions, please note the following:

1. Gym Kit: Please provide a separate gym bag containing:
  - Shorts
  - T-shirt
  - Gym shoes
2. Storage: The gym bag should be kept on your child's peg at school.
3. Labelling: It's crucial that all items of clothing are clearly labelled with your child's name. This includes not only gym kit but also all school clothes, coats, and shoes. Proper labelling will help prevent any mix-ups as the children develop their independence when changing for gym and managing their belongings throughout the school day.

## **OUTDOOR LEARNING**

I'm excited to share that we regularly engage in outdoor learning activities as part of our curriculum. These experiences offer numerous benefits for our children, including:

- Enhanced physical development and health
- Improved cognitive skills and creativity
- Better social skills and teamwork

To ensure your child can fully participate in and enjoy these valuable learning opportunities, please ensure they are appropriately dressed for all weather conditions. It would be extremely helpful if you could provide a pair of wellies that can be left on their pegs for rainy days.

The children absolutely love our outdoor learning sessions, and it's wonderful to see their enthusiasm as they explore and learn in our natural environment.

## **EVIDENCE ME**

We use Evidence Me as our online learning journal to document your child's progress and achievements. Through this platform, we share observations of your child's learning, providing you with valuable insights into their development and experiences at school.

To set up your child's profile, it's crucial that all consent forms are returned by Monday, 2nd September. This will enable us to begin the process of creating each child's profile and begin sharing their learning journey with you.

If you have any questions about Evidence Me or need assistance in accessing the platform, please don't hesitate to ask.

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

As we embark on this Primary 1 journey together, we want to express how genuinely excited we are for the year ahead. It's been an absolute joy getting to know your children over these first few weeks, and we are continually amazed by their enthusiasm, curiosity, and unique personalities.

We look forward to watching the progress they make throughout the year, celebrating their achievements, and supporting them through any challenges. Each child in our P1 family is truly fantastic, bringing their own special qualities to our classroom community.

Together, we're going to have a wonderful year full of learning, growth, and fun. Thank you for your support and partnership in your child's education. Here's to a great year ahead in Primary 1!

Warm regards,

Miss Audino, Miss Hunter and Mrs Murphy

