



QUEENSMEAD PRIMARY ACADEMY

AUTUMN TERM 2026 NEWSLETTER: WELCOME TO YEAR 1

KNOWING ME-KNOWING YOU, BLACK HISTORY & MOON ZOOM

It is great to see that all the children have settled into their new class routines and are enjoying learning. We hope that your child is looking forward to a rewarding and successful year. Year 1 is full of exciting activities, themes and trips! We would like to share with you some information about what your child will be learning over the Autumn Term, as well as offering you opportunities to support your child's understanding of subjects studied.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS	We expect a high standard of behaviour from all children which is monitored by all staff in the academy. The Behaviour Policy (which can be found on our website) explains the academy rules, rewards and sanctions in detail. Every week we have a celebration assembly where achievements are shared and certificates are awarded (including Star of the Week and House Points certificates). Unacceptable behaviour, both in and out of the classroom, will be dealt with firmly but fairly according to the academy's Behaviour Policy. You will be informed of any major incidences, or if your child's behaviour results in two or more detentions within a period of two weeks.	UNIFORM	Uniform is the same for Years 1-3. All pupils must wear correct uniform, including acceptable footwear. A letter will be sent home with pupils who have missing or incorrect uniform. Please refer to the Uniform Policy on our website for further information, including PE kit. PLEASE CLEARLY LABEL ALL CLOTHING!	START OF DAY ACTIVITY (SODA)	This term we are having a focus on handwriting during SODA time. (8.45-9.00am) During this time your child will have the opportunity to practise and improve their handwriting. 
				ARRIVE ON TIME	For the first 15 minutes of every day (after registration) the focus will be handwriting exercises and skills. If your child arrives late they will miss this vital part of the school day. Therefore, it is important that your child arrives on time (by 8:50am) every day.

YEAR 1 CURRICULUM	English This term we will be focussing on stories with familiar settings and Information writing. We will build on the sentence work which the children started in foundation stage. We will focus on children using their knowledge of phonics to spell words, as well as using capital letters, fingers spaces and full stops. Mathematics We will be focusing on Number this term in Mathematics. We would be grateful if you could practise counting forwards and backwards with your child regularly. Also could you practise writing numbers to 10 and checking the numbers have been written correctly. We will be moving onto adding and subtracting within 10. Theme In the first part of the Autumn Term our theme is 'Knowing Me, Knowing You'. This theme focuses on animals, including humans, naming basic parts of a human body. We will also focus on Art, where we will learn about the first of a range of techniques: exploring lines. In the second half of the Autumn Term our theme will be 'Moon Zoom' where we focus on Science and Design Technology. We look at space, the solar system and seasonal change Music During the first half of the Autumn term we will be learning lots of songs about our brilliant bodies. We will also focus on 'pulse'. In the second half of the Autumn term we focus on songs and music linked to the Nativity. We will focus on 'voice'. Art This term we will be learning about different ways to create art and learning our primary and secondary colours.	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	Our PE day is Thursday (indoor and outdoor). PE is part of our academy curriculum and we expect all children to come to school in a full PE kit so that they can take part in their indoor and outdoor PE sessions. All jewellery must be removed. Earrings need to be removed on the day of PE or the child must be able to remove these themselves before the lesson. Please make sure your child has a warm sweatshirt/top for outdoor PE, especially when the weather gets a little bit colder.	QUEENSMOOR QUESTS	Queensmead Quests will continue to be given out once per half term. The aim is to provide a range of challenges for your child to choose from. We would be grateful if you can support and encourage them. If your child experiences any difficulties with the homework, we encourage them to come and see their class teacher for more support.
			In year 1, we expect children to be reading for at least 10 minutes daily. It would be really beneficial if you could listen to your child read and discuss their book regularly to support their understanding. Your child's phonic reading book will be available on Collins Ebooks each week and their new book will be added every Wednesday. Information about your child's logging in details to access their Ebooks will be sent on a separate letter so please look out for this in their book bags. Also, your child will choose a book from our 'reading for pleasure' selection every week which must be returned Thursday of every week in order to choose a new exciting book to share at home. This book is for an adult to share with your child and talk about together, not a book they are expected to read by themselves.		This term, the trip comes to us! We will be enjoying a planetarium at school to learn about the stars and our solar system.