



Onslow Infant School

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Head Teacher: Katherine Donlon

Year 1 Information for Parents

Beginning of the day

We are delighted with the way that the children are independently coming into school in the mornings and safely leaving the site at the end of the day.

Should you have a question for the class teacher that needs more time than drop off and collection allows; please email year1@onslow.surrey.sch.uk . We will arrange a phone call or email a response.

Curriculum Topics in Year 1 2026 - 2027

Autumn Term	Around the U.K Terrific Transport
Spring Term	What a wonderful world: Wintry wonderlands What a wonderful world: Sizzling equators
Summer Term	Castles Oh I do like to be beside the seaside

Topic webs are on the school website in 'School Information' - 'Curriculum' - 'Year 1'

Each half term we have a WOW day linked to the topic. This is a day that the children come to school dressed up as something linked to the topic and take part in engaging activities with big group projects. We will give you plenty of notice of the WOW day dates as the children may wish to get involved with creating their own costume.

In Year 1 we structure our day in a similar way to EYFS. We have a wonderful outside area, which allows for continuous provision inside and outside and ensures a smooth transition into the Key Stage 1 curriculum from EYFS.

The learning environment provides lots of opportunities for children to explore their learning through play, developing their language, social skills and good learning behaviours.

School trips

We have provisionally booked one trip this year to Arundel Castle in May 2026. Information will be sent out when it is confirmed. As with all trips, a full risk assessment will be made by Arundel Castle and the school.

We will be walking around the Arboretum four times this academic year to observe seasonal changes and will ask for some volunteers. The first walk will be in October (tbc). Many thanks.

English

Our writing input may include sharing a text; work on grammar and punctuation or spelling, phonics or vocabulary. Activities in smaller groups will relate to specific teaching objectives, this may include written tasks, group discussions or drama. Handwriting takes place in separate timetabled sessions.

Phonics

Onslow Infant School follow the Read Write Inc. phonics scheme and we have a dedicated phonics session every day across the whole school. This means that your child will go to a different classroom so they can be supported at their individual level. You can support these sessions with daily reading of the ditty or paper book that your child brings home.

In June 2026, all children in Year 1 will participate in the Year 1 Phonics Screening check. This is a statutory test for Year 1. There is a video illustrating the correct pronunciation of sounds on the school website (see 'Educational Information for Parents.'). It would be very helpful if you are familiar with the correct way to pronounce each sound as you support your child with their reading and spelling.

Reading

Reading for pleasure books are changed by the children each Monday and Thursday between 8.45 and 9am. A little bit of reading at home everyday will really benefit your child so please try and set aside a time that suits your family to snuggle up with a book and read a few pages. If you would like any strategies to support your child's reading at home, then please ask the class teacher or come to the reading workshop later in the term. Please re-read books to develop fluency and rapid word recognition.

It is important that you initial and date the yellow reading contact book to show that you have heard your child read otherwise the book may not be changed.

Book talk is as important as decoding so encourage your child to talk about the plot, characters or layout of the text. Progression between book bands is based on ongoing assessment of decoding words and comprehension of a range of text types. These are reading for pleasure books and not phonics books.

Library - Wednesday

As the children choose their own library books, the degree of difficulty of these books may vary. Please value and support your child in their choice and ensure that the book is returned to school the following week. We will let you know library days for each class soon.

Maths

We use White Rose Maths to plan and teach mathematics. The children are taught a new concept as a class and then work on a range of practical and abstract activities in groups, and in continuous provision, to master the concept.

Any number games that you can play at home that encourage mental maths would benefit your child's development. Keeping it fun is the main objective. It would be very helpful for you to allow your child to have experiences with money, capacity, weight and time as they occur in the real world. This enables them to see a practical use for number outside the school environment and also familiarises them with the related vocabulary.

Intervention groups

During the year, there may be times when your child is involved in small group activities related to a specific area of learning to support or extend their individual needs. If this is the case, then your class teacher may speak to you individually.

Enrichment activities

In addition to daily reading, we will send home an enrichment activity via Tapestry each Wednesday. This could be in the form of a talking activity or something more practical and fun. Please show that your child has completed this work by posting a photo to Tapestry.

Please remember that your child will have been working hard all day so may not be able to focus on homework - don't worry, try again another time, little and often with lots of praise for effort is often better than trying to do it all in one go.

PE

All items of the PE kit, including the drawstring bag must be **named** and should be small enough to hang on a peg. The PE bag should be brought in on the first day of each half term and left in school until the last day of that half term. Plimsolls or trainers, along with a spare pair of socks, are required for the whole year.

We only allow children to wear a small stud earring to school (no hoops). We are not allowed to take earrings out for the children, nor can they be taped over, so please could you ensure that your child is not wearing earrings on their PE days. Children wearing earrings on a PE day will not be allowed to take part for safety reasons.

Please encourage children to dress independently as this allows more lesson time participating in sport rather than time spent getting dressed.

Weekly PE day - Thursday and occasionally Tuesday

Woodland

Children will need **wellies** and **tracksuit bottoms** which can be kept in their PE bag. As with PE, these should be brought in on the first day of each half term and left in school until the last day of that half term. They will need a coat every day as they will go out in all weathers. All items should be clearly named.

50p Voluntary donation

This collection funded lots of exciting new resources in EYFS last year and we are looking forward to buying some extra resources to enhance the provision in Year 1. We know that some of you have already paid for the whole year so thank you.

Reading to the Class Mascot

At some point of the year, your child will bring home the class mascot and will bring home a Onslow yellow bookbag containing special books in to read with the mascot over the weekend. We would love it if you could post a photo of your child reading with the mascot on Tapestry so we can share it with the class. We look forward to seeing your photos but it is not a requirement.

Achievement Assembly

We like to celebrate your child's achievements both in and out of school. If your child gains an award from an out of school club e.g. swimming or gym, or meets a **difficult** challenge, for example learning to ride a bike without stabilisers, please send their achievement certificate or photograph on Friday. This will be shared with the class as part of the achievement assembly on Friday.

Parents' evenings and open afternoons

Autumn Term - This is an opportunity to discuss how each child has settled in their new class.

Spring Term - This will be an opportunity to look at your child's work, and discuss your child's targets for the following term.

Water bottles

It is important that your child stays hydrated during the day so every child should have a water bottle in school every day, all year around. Please ensure that these bottles are named and your child can independently open it. Water bottles must only be filled with water.

Letters, photographs and information for each class is available on Tapestry and do check the school website regularly for notices and topic plans: www.onslow.surrey.sch.uk.

Email: year1@onslow.surrey.sch.uk

Yours sincerely

Fox Class

Mr. Aldworth

Badger Class

Mrs. Dockett and Mrs. Peel

Teaching Assistants

Ms. Nicholson

Mrs Westcott