

WELCOME TO FIRST GRADE

Thank you all so much for your help and support as we start the new school year. I am really looking forward to working as a team this year to help your child learn and grow!

1. **Forms**:

The following forms have been sent home and should have been returned to school:

* Emergency medical forms
* Free or reduced lunch applications
* Permission to share photo graphs
* Permission to attend local field trips

1. **Lunch Money**:

Please consult the lunch menu for daily school lunch options. Please send in lunch money in an envelope marked with your child’s name, teacher and grade clearly written on the front. I would recommend paying by check if you are paying for several lunches at once, this way you have a record of the payment. If you have any questions regarding payment, please contact Food Services. If you did not fill out a Free or Reduced Lunch application and believe you may qualify, you can pick up an application in the cafeteria or office.

1. **Snacks and Drinks:**

Every child should bring a nutritious snack (yogurt, fruit, granola bars, etc.) each day. Please send in only one item for snack. Students should also bring a water bottle to leave in the classroom. The closest water fountain is down the hall, so it would be best if each child has a drink available in the room. We have a designated water bottle table!

1. **Supplies and Folders:**

In first grade we have “community supplies” in our classrooms. With that being said, I ask that students don’t bring in personal supplies, such as special pencils, etc. If they do have such supplies in their backpacks, they have been asked to only use them during non-work times. Sharing is an important skill for children to learn and given the right opportunity they will do so without hesitation. The idea of “what’s mine is yours” has really helped to build our classroom community. Thank you all so much for sending in classroom supplies! We may need to replenish some supplies later in the school year. I will reach out when and if the time comes. In addition, every child should bring his/her backpack to school every day. Please be sure to check your child’s backpack and folder at night!

 **5. P.E./Sneakers:**

Please make sure your child wears sneakers on the days that we have P.E. You can refer to the specialist rotation schedule that was sent home to help keep track of P.E. days. Your child may also leave an extra pair or sneakers at school if you wish. Children should also dress in appropriate attire and bring a jacket as P.E. is often outdoors.

1. **Homework:**

The students will be given homework Monday-Thursday. They need to complete the nightly homework assignment for the following school day. Please check for your child’s homework in their folder each night. To complete homework you may need crayons, scissors and glue sticks at home. In addition to the nightly homework, we ask that first grade students read at night. You will need to fill out and initial their “Reading Log” and once complete your child will earn a homework pass! At first, the students should be reading with an adult and eventually it is important that each student take ownership of this reading responsibility. There will not be homework on Fridays/over the weekend.

1. **Notes:**

If your child is absent, please send a note as to why he/she was out of school. If your child’s regular dismissal routine is going to be changed in any way (even if it is for just one day) we must receive written notification. Emergency situations will be handled through the office. Please remember, your child will not be released to anyone who is not listed on your emergency form. Please know that your child’s safety is our first concern. The children will not be allowed to change their regular dismissal routines unless we have notification prior to the end of the school day.

1. **Classroom Volunteers:**

If you are interested in volunteering in our classroom, please consider participating in our Mystery Reader program. I also ask for volunteers for classroom celebrations.

1. **Birthdays:**

We celebrate birthdays in first grade by making a special birthday book. The birthday boy/girl will also wear a crown and will get a small birthday gift (pencil, book mark and bracelet). If you would like to send in a treat, please contact me in advance so that we can arrange for it together. If you would prefer, you can also send your child in with something to share with their classmates (pencils, erasers, etc.) Please note that we have 22 students in our class. If your child’s birthday lands on the weekend, you may choose either Friday or Monday to celebrate. Please do not feel that you need to do anything extra, we will still celebrate in school! If you are having a birthday party for your child out of school INVITATIONS MAY ONLY COME TO SCHOOL IF EVERYONE IS INCLUDED. If your child is having an all girl (or all boy) party, you may send them to school but only if all girls (or boys) in the class are included. If you are not inviting the entire class, please send them to home addresses.

I am confident that this is going to be a great school year for us all! Communication and collaboration will help to ensure that the children have a successful learning experience. I look forward to us becoming partners in your child’s education, and providing them with the tools and confidence they need to be lifelong learners! Please feel free to contact me at school if you have any questions or concerns. My email address is mganley@gloucesterschools.com. I will always get back to you as soon as possible.

Thank you for your support,

Meghan Ganley

 