



A M B L E R

PRIMARY SCHOOL AND CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Going in to Year 1

at Ambler Primary School

Welcome to Year 1



Juliet Benis, Headteacher, says...

We are delighted to welcome you to Year 1. At Ambler, we encourage children to make decisions for themselves and acquire the skills to become independent learners and the shapers of tomorrow.

Moving to a more formal education

The move from Reception to Year 1 is a move from the more unstructured early years curriculum to the more formal national primary curriculum.

In the summer term before children move up we hold a coffee morning for parents to outline the changes ahead. Over the first term there is a gradual transition to the new more structured learning.

Getting to know you

Whether you have come from our Reception Class in our Children's Centre, or are starting your journey with us. I look forward to getting to know you and your child.



D **Determination**

R **Resilience**

E **Enthusiasm**

A **Ambition**

M **Motivation**

S **Self-belief**

Coming from our Reception Class?

A quick guide to what's different in Year 1

What's different in year 1?

- In the first 2 weeks the day looks the same as reception for transition. By October, Year 1 are doing discrete literacy, numeracy and curriculum lessons.
- Play time is in the front playground with Year 1 Teaching Assistants (TAs). Lunch-time and last play, Year 1 children go into the big playground.
- They eat lunch in the bottom hall, taking their own plate to choose their own food from the salad bars and food trolley, assisted by staff.
- The children have separate teachers for music and PE, PHSE.
- In Year 1, 1:1 Reading is very important and all children will be read to across the week and have reading books changed. Each child will be given a specific day to read with the teacher. Comments from parents are encouraged.

- Full uniform is compulsory
- Children have to wear PE kit on PE days (if you require assistance, please see the office).
- Extended day and clubs are in the school now and they need to be registered.
- They don't go to assembly straight away but bit by bit they start to attend assemblies.
- Start and End of the day children line up on the number 1 in front playground.
- Expectations in relation to behaviour for learning and general behaviour are introduced as the year progresses.



FAQ

Can I still take my child into the class like in Reception?

At the beginning of the year you are welcome to come in with your child and settle them in class. By week two, we expect the children to be able to say 'goodbye' to you in the playground and come in, in their class line.

Will they start doing the morning playground exercises with the rest of the school at 8.55?

Year 1 will start doing exercise each morning from the beginning of the year.

How quickly do they go from 'learning through play' to sit-down lessons?

The children go through a seamless transition where independent learning is encouraged. By October, the children in Year 1 are working on the national curriculum.

Will they start going to all the assemblies?

In the Autumn-term they will attend our DREAMS assembly on Friday. From the spring term (January) they will be attending the Show and Tell Assembly (Tuesday's), Music assembly (Thursday's). In the summer term (April); they will attend all assemblies.

Moving in to Year 1: A-Z guide

Attendance

We take attendance very seriously at Ambler because we know that a child who attends school every day will make good progress and do well. If a child misses valuable learning time it will lead to gaps in their understanding. If your child has to be away from school due to illness please ring the school office before 9am.

NO holidays should be taken in term time as there are 13 weeks a year school holidays.

Assembly

At Ambler all children attend assembly every day. It is important to come together as a school community. On Monday it is phase assembly and the lower phase assembly is led by Hazel Lambert. Tuesday it is a class assembly where different topics from the curriculum are discussed. Wednesday is 'Show and Tell' assembly, this is when individual classes do an assembly and parents can attend. In year 1 they will do three assemblies over the course of the year. Thursday is whole school music assembly led by our specialist music teacher. Friday is DREAMS and attendance assembly. In this assembly individual children are rewarded by teachers for exhibiting DREAMS behaviours and we celebrate class attendance. Parents are welcome to book in to attend DREAMS via the office. Year 1 attend assembly from week 2.

Behaviour

At Ambler Primary School we follow a system called 'Good to be Green'. All children are expected to follow our behaviour for learning rules. If they don't then they are warned and then put onto a yellow card. They then have the opportunity to move back to green by showing good behaviour for learning. If, in the rare event, the child does not alter their BFL then they will be moved to a red card and expected to attend reflection at lunchtime.



Curriculum

At Ambler, we follow the New Primary Curriculum. All children do reading, literacy and maths every morning. In year 1, they do thirty minutes of phonics in banded groupings too. In the afternoon, all pupils follow the humanities, science and PE national curriculum, music curriculum. They are all topic-based and every half term you will receive a curriculum booklet that outlines what the children will be learning that term.

DREAMS

At Ambler, our aim is to help all children and adults in the School in 'Achieving more'. Our school ethos is what we base all of our expectations on. DREAMS stand for determination, resilience, enthusiasm, ambition, motivation and success. When a teacher notices one of these behaviours in a child they will get a DREAMS sticker that is stuck on an individual chart.

Extended day

All pupils from year 1 upwards are entitled to book into our extended day service that runs before school (8 am) and after school until 5.45pm. You can book in via the school office.

Exercise

Exercise happens every morning at 08:55. The whole school comes together at lining up time and does a brief exercise routine that focusses them for the day.

Free play

Unlike in the Foundation Stage, there is less opportunity for year 1 children to have free play during the school day. There will be some free play in the first few weeks while the children transition. After that, it is used as a reward, generally on a Friday.

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Gym kit

All children at Ambler do PE and need full gym kit every week. They wear a t-shirt colour according to the house that they are assigned to. A full list can be found in the uniform leaflet.

Houses

Every child is assigned to a 'house'. The houses are: Middleton, Greenaway, Dickens and Bawden. Pupils can gain house points for good work and behaviour which go towards an end of term treat for the house with the most house points. On sports day the children compete in their house teams.

Inclusion

Ambler is an inclusive school, we expect that all children whatever their ability will make outstanding progress and achieve the expected level of attainment by the time they leave.

Literacy and Maths

Literacy and Maths is taught every day and we encourage the children to think, explore and investigate all areas of their learning. Can you please work with your children on numbers and words within the environment and around your home and encourage them to talk to you about their learning.

No medical appointments or dentist appointments before 1.30 pm please and you must inform the office and your child's teacher.

Outside learning

We have developed our outside learning space. Presently we have seats and a learning area in the playground where teachers may choose to work with their classes especially on Science topics. We also encourage trips around the local area and other areas of interest and will be having a trip, every term. You will be notified before any of these trips. If you would like to attend, please review our Volunteers policy, available on the website.

Playtime

We run an 'active play time' at Ambler Primary School. All playground supervisors have assigned activities that encourage children to play together and be active. In year 1 and 2 all children have a break in the morning and afternoon as well as at lunchtime.

Punctuality:

Punctuality is very important. The school day starts at 8.55 and pupils are considered to be 'late' after 9 am. Remember that phonics starts at 9.05 am.

Questions and concerns

If you have any concerns or questions the first port of call is your child's teacher who is available every day after school. If you need to see a phase leader, deputy or the head teacher, they are always present in the playground in the morning and after school or you can call the office to make an appointment.

Reading

Reading is the cornerstone of educational success. All year 1 children will read banded reading books on a 1-1 basis once a week with their teacher. Children who are struggling will receive extra reading sessions every week with our intervention teacher and volunteers. Reading must continue at home, you should read to and with your child every day and record this in the yellow reading record. Children must bring in their reading record, reading book in the Ambler book bag every day. We read to succeed at Ambler!



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R.E.:

As well as teaching RE through topic we also have three 'RE' days a year. On these days every class spends a full day exploring a major world religion. Workshop days also include guest speakers and the opportunity to visit different places of worship.

Reports:

There are three parent teacher meetings every year (one per term) and one formal report that is given out on the last week in July. This includes an overview of progress and attainment made during the academic year as well as other school achievements.

Safeguarding:

At Ambler School, the health and well-being of every child are our paramount concern. On rare occasions our concern about a child may mean that we have to consult other agencies before we contact you. The procedures which we follow are to be found in our Safeguarding and Child protection Policy, available on our website. All staff are trained in Child Protection Awareness. The School follows local authority guidelines in relation to safeguarding children.

Soft-start:

This is our free early morning breakfast club that starts at 08.30 am and includes breakfast and a supervised activity. All children are very welcome.

Trips

All children go on a minimum of three curriculum related trips throughout the school year with their class. You will receive more information about trips as the year unfolds, Parent helpers are always needed and welcomed and this can be arranged with your class teacher. Further information is available on the website, please see our volunteer policy.

Uniform

Children wear full school uniform every day. The Ambler uniform is on display in the front reception area and details about how to order it are on a separate sheet.

Visitors

To keep our children safe we ensure that all visitors sign in at the front office. You may not enter the building in any other way.

Wet-play:

We try and get the children out in the fresh air as much as possible and this includes on 'drizzly' days so please supply a waterproof coat with your child's name clearly printed inside it.

If it is too wet to play outside then children will be supervised in their classroom with a variety of wet play activities.



Extra-curricular activities!

We run a huge variety of extra-curricular clubs from Latin to Lego club, cooking, dance, gymnastics, karate and many, many more. See the office for a full timetable and how to book in.

A good night's sleep is really important for your child. They are busy learning all day at Ambler.

Please ensure that your child has a regular bedtime routine that is at a reasonable hour during the school week.



Year 1 Curriculum: what you need to know

Creative learning journey

This part of the term is very important in establishing the transition from reception and settling the children into year 1.

Our topic in the Autumn-term is 'All About Me'. The children will be thinking about and sharing information about themselves. In Science we will be learning about the human body and animals. In Art we will be linking our science topic on the body to Art, where children will make their own self portrait. Our artist of the term is Matisse. We will make cut-out pictures inspired by Matisse. Our art work will be displayed in our class gallery. Please come and see them!

In music we will be learning simple action songs. In ICT, children will be learning about the parts of a computer and about how ICT can be used to find out information. In RE, we will be learning about religious festivals and celebrations.

After half term we will focus on houses and homes. Children will be comparing old and new houses in our local environment.

In D.T we will create our own houses and homes. In Science, we will begin to learn about materials and their everyday uses.

The Curriculum booklets are given out each term to inform parents of our topics. This will keep you informed of up and coming topics over the year.

If you have any questions or ways to support us, please come and talk to us at the beginning or end of the day.



Communication, language and literacy

NON- FICTION

Labels, lists and captions and Recounts.

NARRATIVE

Stories with predictable phrasing.

POETRY

Poetry to do with the Senses.

As well as the Literacy lesson, each day we will have a 20-minute phonics session. We will also read with your child once every week and change their books. Children can also change their own books when they have finished reading the book we have given them.

Some children will be receiving extra support with their reading and writing from Shanti. (Reading Recovery / Intervention Teacher)



Mathematical development

NUMBER

Children will learn to count forwards and backwards from 0-20, read and write numerals to 30 and beyond, count in multiples of ten and begin to know one more/less for numbers to 30. They will also identify and represent number using objects.

ADDITION & SUBTRACTION

Children will learn that addition is the combining of two groups of objects and subtraction is taking them away. They will learn the maths signs for these operations & begin to learn their number bonds to 10.

MEASURE & SHAPE

Children will compare measures of length, weight and height. They will also begin to recognise 2-D and 3-D shapes and their names.

TIME: They will learn names of the days and months, sequence events in time order and begin to learn O clock and half past.

Physical Development

PE lessons will be on Tuesday afternoons. P.E T-shirts can be bought from the school office. Your child will wear the colour of his or her house. The office can tell you which colour your child will need to have. Many children regularly forget their PE kits so please bring one in at the beginning of term and leave it in school until the half term holiday.



Social emotional aspects of learning

September and October

Looking after myself.

November and December

What goes into and onto our bodies?



Remember to keep reading! A little bit everyday makes a big difference.

We would like you to add a small comment in the Yellow Reading book.

Remember to bring your book bag every day.

Thank you!

Remember to practice your maths by counting, writing numbers and by looking at the numbers that are all around you!

Remember to bring your homework back in on Tuesdays and learn your spellings for the week!

Private Fostering

Privately fostered children are cared for by someone other than a parent or close relative (eg step-parents, siblings, siblings of a parent and grandparents) for 28 days or more. School staff have a statutory duty to make a referral to the Children's Services Contact Team (020 7527 7400) if, in relation to a child up to the age of sixteen, where:

- They become aware of a private fostering arrangement which is not likely to be notified to the local authority
- They have doubts about whether a child's carers are actually their parents, and there is evidence to support these doubts, which may or may not include concerns about the child's welfare

Further information about private fostering arrangements can be found at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/safeguarding/safeguardingchildren/a0068804/private-fostering> and <http://www.baaf.org.uk/>.

Our DREAMS



Determination

You can show determination by:

- Trying your best
- Working hard in anything you find difficult
- Focusing on specific steps or targets
- Breaking your goal down into small steps
- Taking one step at a time if necessary
- Accepting that some goals require hard work
- Being persistent and tenacious



Resilience

You can show resilience by:

- Never giving up
- Persevering when working towards your goal
- Trying to achieve your personal best
- Overcoming the fear of failure
- Keep on going even when it gets tough
- Having the ability to problem solve
- Bouncing back from obstacles



Enthusiasm

You can show enthusiasm by:

- Putting all your energy into anything you do
- Being passionate about what you are doing
- Supporting and encouraging others
- Showing positive body language: smiling
- Taking a keen interest in any task even though it may seem difficult
- Participating positively in all activities



Ambition

You can show ambition by:

- Identifying and aiming for a goal
- Knowing the steps to achieving your goal
- Pushing and extending yourself
- Believing that nothing is impossible
- Keeping focused on the 'big picture'
- Articulating your ambition and your progress
- Knowing there are different routes to success



Motivation

You can show motivation by:

- Being prepared to work hard
- Dealing with failure or setbacks positively
- Really wanting to achieve success
- Understanding why you are doing something
- Being driven and keen
- Accepting and understanding constructive criticism
- Being aware of your own areas of development



Self-belief

You can show self-belief by:

- Showing bravery
- Taking risks and trying new things
- Recognising what you are good at
- Having confidence that you will achieve
- Saying 'I can do this!'
- Visualising yourself succeeding
- Learning from your mistakes



GREAT NEWS!

THE NEW AMBLER APP HAS ARRIVED!

We are making communication easier, faster and more effective

I'm pleased to announce that we've introduced a new service - 'School Gateway'. This means that we can share information with parents more quickly via email, text, online and smartphone app. It will also save parents - and the school - time and money.

You will be able to view and manage the following for your child(ren):

- Club Bookings
- Uniform Purchases
- School Events e.g School Journey, Comedy Nights, Disco's etc
 - Messages from School – With the ability to reply directly
 - Your Contact Details
 - Student Details
- Trips – Including giving consent online

Payments for clubs, uniform and other school events can be made via Instant Bank Transfer, debit or credit card.

What you need to do now

PLEASE SAVE THE FOLLOWING NUMBER IN YOUR PHONE AS AMBLER TO ENSURE YOU RECEIVE OUR TEXT MESSAGES

0203 3899111

Activate your School Gateway Account.

It's quick and easy to do. All you need are your email address and mobile number that school holds on record for you.

- **Download the app:** If you have a smartphone, please download School Gateway from your app store (Android and iPhone). The app shows the same information as the website PLUS you can message the school for FREE – this will also save the school money when we send you a text message.

OR

- **Visit the website:** www.schoolgateway.com and click on 'New User'.

You'll receive a text message with a PIN number. Use this PIN to log into School Gateway.

If you're having trouble logging in, it may be because the school doesn't have your current email and mobile phone number on record. Please contact the school office to confirm your correct contact details.

We hope that you will find School Gateway a great way to keep up to date with what's going on at school.

Yours faithfully, Ms Benis, Head Teacher

