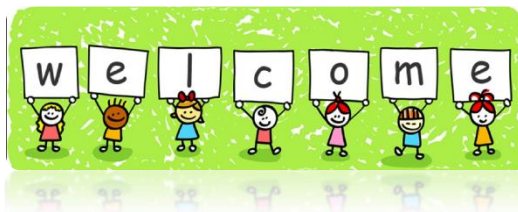


Welcome to Year 1 – Seahorses

Autumn 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,



A very warm welcome to Year 1 and to Seahorse class!

I hope you all had a lovely summer break and are looking forward to the exciting year ahead. We have so enjoyed welcoming the children back to school, helping them settle into their new classroom and look forward to supporting them as they begin their journey through Year 1.

The move from Reception into Year 1 is an important step, and during the first few weeks we will focus on helping the children become confident, independent and familiar with our new routines and expectations.

Coming into School

In Year 1, children say goodbye to their adults at the classroom door and make their way into the corridor independently to hang up their belongings and get ready for the day.

This is an important part of moving on from the Early Years and developing greater independence. We really appreciate your support and encouragement with this transition.

If you need to pass on a message to a member of the Year 1 team, you are very welcome to speak to us briefly at the classroom door in the morning, at home time, or contact Mrs Docherty **by email** at dochertyl@greatstoneschool.co.uk.

Please email rather than sending a message via Dojo as these are more easily missed!

Our Expectations in Year 1

Throughout the year, we will encourage the children to:

- come into school independently and confidently;
- look after their own belongings;
- listen carefully and follow instructions;
- show kindness, respect and consideration towards others;
- try their best, even when something feels challenging; and
- contribute positively to our class community.

We know that children develop at different rates, and we will support and encourage every child as they become more confident with these expectations.

PE

Our usual PE days will be **Wednesday and Thursday**. On PE days, children should come to school wearing their school PE kit.

Our Autumn Learning

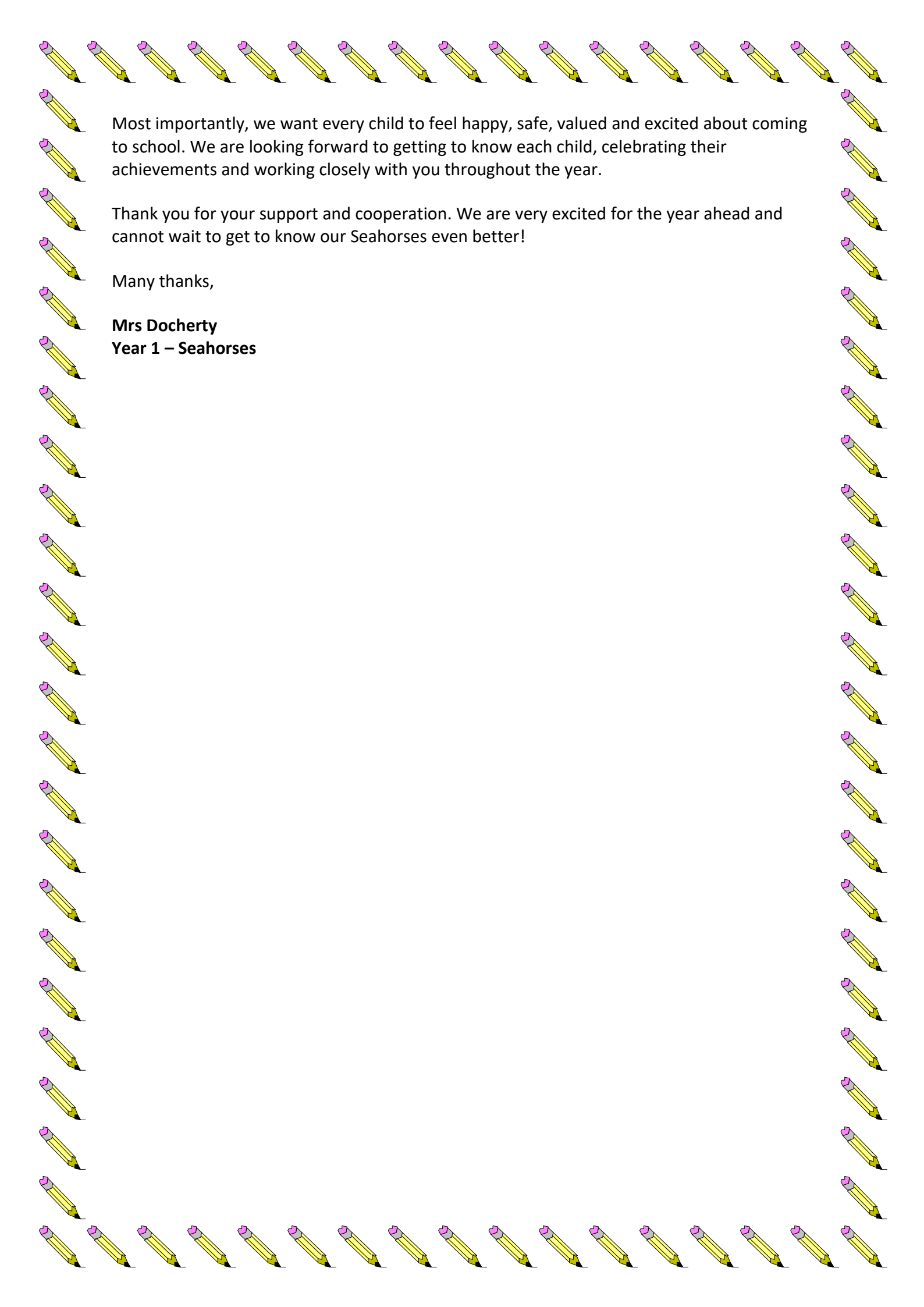
We have a busy and exciting Autumn term planned for Seahorses!



- In **English**, the children will begin by developing their writing through lists and labels before exploring familiar stories including *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *One Snowy Night* and *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*. They will also begin developing their skills in describing characters and using interesting vocabulary. In **Reading**, we will continue developing fluency, comprehension and a love of books. Our daily **Phonics** sessions continue directly from the children's learning in Reception, following our ELS scheme and supporting children with recognition, segmenting and blending.
- In **Maths**, we will follow the White Rose Maths scheme, developing secure foundations in number, place value and calculation. Children will use practical resources, images and mathematical language to build confidence, explain their thinking and apply their skills in a range of contexts.
- Our **Science** learning will focus on seasonal change and weather. We will begin with our Greatstone Weather Station and explore the four seasons, Autumn weather, how plants change during Autumn, how animals prepare for Winter and what it means to be a young meteorologist.
- There are so many opportunities for being creative in Year 1! Through **Art, and Design and Technology**, children will explore colour, materials, shape and structure, experimenting with different techniques and bringing their own ideas to life through designing, making and creating.
- Our **History** learning will explore childhood in the past and present. We will consider how we have changed, how our families grew up, how toys have changed over time and what photographs can tell us about the past.
- Meanwhile, across **Computing, PSHE, Music, RE and PE**, children will continue to develop a wide range of skills through practical, creative and collaborative learning. They will explore technology, relationships and belonging, music and movement, different beliefs and ways of staying active, while building confidence, independence and teamwork.

We hope this overview gives you a helpful picture of some of the exciting learning that will be taking place during the first part of the Autumn term.





Most importantly, we want every child to feel happy, safe, valued and excited about coming to school. We are looking forward to getting to know each child, celebrating their achievements and working closely with you throughout the year.

Thank you for your support and cooperation. We are very excited for the year ahead and cannot wait to get to know our Seahorses even better!

Many thanks,

Mrs Docherty
Year 1 – Seahorses