



Nansloe Academy & Nursery

Head of School: Mrs L Swiggs

8th September 2025

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope you all had a fantastic summer holiday. The children have had an incredible first two days and are taking all the changes in their stride! They are settling well into school life again and are becoming familiar with the new routines and structure in Year 1.

It's a big change from Reception, with a shift towards a more formal curriculum, and we are easing them in gently to support this transition. We are incredibly lucky to have Mrs Hill as our Teaching Assistant every day in Year 1. She brings many years of experience and will be a huge support to the children.

Topic

Our topic for the first half term is *Homes and Community*. We will be learning about the UK and where we live. In science, we'll explore the human body and take part in mini investigations to understand how our senses help us. You can find further information about what your child will be learning on our class page of the website.

Reading

We will continue using the *Read Write Inc.* scheme to teach phonics and reading skills. New reading books will be issued on Wednesday, and we'll return to our three-day rolling programme.

At Nansloe, we aim to foster a love of reading. We'll share stories and poems daily as a whole class and promote reading for pleasure with regular library visits, where children can choose a book to share with you at home. When reading and listening to stories, we'll focus on retelling, describing characters, and predicting what might happen next.

At this early stage, regular reading practice is essential. Please encourage your child to read as much as possible at home and school. Don't forget to sign the reading record when your child reads at home, and feel free to comment on their progress.

Literacy

This term, we'll focus on developing key foundational skills. Children will improve their handwriting, learn to form letters correctly, and write with increasing fluency. They'll practise writing captions to accompany pictures, helping them link words to visual prompts and express ideas clearly and creatively.

T: 01326 572966

E: hello@nansloe.org.uk

W: www.nansloe.org.uk

Nansloe Academy, Bulwark Road, Helston, Cornwall TR13 8JF

A Company Limited by Guarantee. An Exempt Charity

Registered in England & Wales - Company No. 07387540

Registered Office: Aspire Academy Trust, Unit 20, St Austell Business Park, St Austell, Cornwall PL25 4FD





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By the end of Year 1, children are expected to confidently read, write, and spell a wide range of common exception words—also known as 'tricky monster words' or 'red words'. These don't follow typical phonics rules and must be learned by sight. We'll practise these regularly in school through fun and engaging activities, and we encourage you to support your child at home.

Here are a few strategies you can try:

- **Word Hunts:** Spot tricky words in books, signs, or packaging.
- **Flashcards:** Create colourful cards and play matching or memory games.
- **Word of the Week:** Focus on one tricky word—write it, say it, and use it in sentences.
- **Magnetic Letters or Chalk:** Build or write words in fun ways.
- **Tricky Word Wall:** Display learned words at home for regular exposure.

Children will bring home a word list for reference. Mastering these words is key to developing fluency and confidence, but please don't worry—we'll work on them gradually throughout the year with plenty of support.

Mathematics

This half term, our focus will be on number and place value within 10, as well as shape. Children will practise counting forwards and backwards, sorting and representing objects, and comparing numbers. We'll introduce part-whole models to help them understand how numbers can be broken down and combined. Our maths lessons will include practical activities and opportunities for formal recording, helping build understanding and confidence. During problem-solving tasks, children will be encouraged to explain their reasoning, developing their mathematical thinking and communication skills.

We follow the *White Rose Maths* scheme, which you can explore at whiterosemaths.com/homelearning. It's a fantastic resource that offers insight into how we teach maths at Nansloe and provides helpful support for learning at home.

P.E.

PE lessons will take place on **Wednesday afternoons**. Please ensure your child comes to school wearing their PE kit on this day. This should include black shorts, a white top, and trainers. As the weather can be unpredictable, please ensure your child is dressed appropriately.

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Outdoor Learning

Year 1 children will not have outdoor learning this term. A letter will be sent when outdoor learning begins.

Reminders

Please ensure your child arrives each morning with:

- Their reading book bag
- A **named** coat
- A **named** water bottle
- **Labelled uniform**, especially jumpers and cardigans

We're looking forward to an exciting Autumn term full of new learning and experiences. To get off to a flying start, we're celebrating good behaviour and rewarding children with positive praise using our *Rocket Reward* chart—please encourage your child to tell you about their successes!

Parents' evenings will take place on **15th and 16th October**. It will be wonderful to see you then to discuss your child's progress. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to speak to me after school or email hello@nansloe.org.uk and your message will be forwarded to me.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support with your child's learning.

Here's to a fantastic Autumn term in Year 1!

Hannah Ashdown

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