

St. Mary's C.E. (A) Primary School



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the new school year and Class 1. I hope that you have all had a fantastic summer holiday and the children are ready for the challenges and excitement of life in Class 1, as I am!

This newsletter has been put together to provide you with helpful information about your child moving into Year 1.

We hope you find the information useful.

We look forward to working with you over the coming year.

*Transitions are good when...*

✓ *the parent is valued as the first educator of their child and home and school are working in partnership.*

✓ *Schools ensure that parents have an understanding of the new routines and expectations.*

✓ *Parents are welcomed and inducted into Year 1 practices.*

Therefore I hope to...

+ Write this first, detailed newsletter for your information.

+ Invite you for an informal chat after school if you so wish.

+ Explain the ethos, pedagogy and routines of year 1 within a Year 1 transition meeting.

### **What does my child need to bring?**

Children will need to bring their book bags every day.

In the Autumn Term the children will have **PE** on a Wednesday and a Friday. Please bring an indoor and suitable outdoor kit in school colours) in one PE bag, which can be mixed and matched depending on the weather. Please make sure all clothing is FULLY LABELLED with your child's name.

Children do not need waterproofs to be kept in school, as Year 1 do not have an outdoor area. Children will have a basket to keep their water bottle in. This can be taken home each evening.

### **Uniform and Jewellery**

Children are expected to wear full St Mary's School uniform and suitable school shoes. All accessories should be in school colours (black, grey, red, white) including hair accessories.

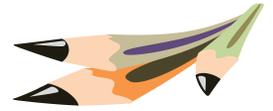
The only jewellery permitted is a watch and small, plain stud earrings. Please read the attached document for guidelines. Your support and compliance in these matters is valued.

### **Book Bags and Reading**

Your child will receive a reading book(s) and a reading diary. Please read with your child every night and record this in their reading diary even if it is just a signature. Every time your child reads at home they will receive a team point, to encourage reading at home.

Any book you read at home can be written in the diary. I will also be putting 'key words' to practice reading on sight, on the inside pages. Please bring in your child's book bag every day. Children will be listened to read every day through RWI and English lessons, and their books changed once a week.

Please ensure any 'old' items are removed from book bags and they are checked each evening. For ease of access, please only have one keyring on your child's book bag.



## What happens during the first few weeks?

As with the first weeks in Reception class, we feel that it is important to establish as many aspects of the daily routine as soon as possible.

We will familiarise the children with their new environment – both harnessing nerves and embracing excitement. The classroom doors will be opened from 8.50am and the children can calmly enter school between 8.50 and 9.00am. Please encourage your child to come into school by themselves, as this will help to develop their independence and enable us to begin learning as soon as possible. The register will be taken between 9.00 and 9.10am.

## HOME LEARNING

During the first half of the term there will be an emphasis on a return to basics for home learning. These are non-negotiable elements that focus on reading or being read to, spelling and learning and practising number facts on a daily basis.

I will be giving out mathematics home learning work books shortly, with some more information outlining how the children are to use them.

## Spellings

Children have spelling activities within their RWI session and morning tasks. When the children have covered the necessary sounds, which comes about the Spring term, they will have spellings sent home to practice.

## CURRICULUM

We will be following the National Curriculum (2014) for Year 1. Learning is topic based, as it was in Reception. The National Curriculum is followed and we aim to provide as many enrichment opportunities as possible with Art and ICT opportunities as well as trips and focus weeks.

Transition from the Early Learning Goals to the National Curriculum will be closely monitored.

Year 1 will build on the successful principles and approaches encapsulated in Reception but will challenge at a Year 1 National Curriculum Level. Children will learn through adult lead, adult initiated and child initiated challenges. Free play is called 'challenge time' where children have set tasks to complete through independent exploration.

## Phonics- READ WRITE INC

At the core of RWI is the lively and vigorous teaching of synthetic phonics. Children learn the common 44 sounds in the English language and how to sound blend words for reading (decoding) at the same time as developing handwriting skills and spelling (encoding). I hope to answer any questions you may have regarding RWI at the transition meeting.

## Communication

Please encourage your child to pass any messages onto me that I need to know. (Alternatively please catch me early enough at the start of the day or stay after school. I will be more than happy to chat and address any concerns you may have, and I am available most mornings from 8.30-8.45am). If you are not able to do this, a non-urgent note can be written in your child's reading record or a message left for me at the office. I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible. If you would like to speak to me more at length, please make an appointment with the office.

## Parent Helpers

In order to maximise learning time, I am looking for some parent support to help in the mornings with RWI/reading groups. I know a lot of you were brilliant volunteers last year, and that some of you have already shown interest to help again this year. If you are interested, please let me know your availability and I will get back to you shortly.

Here is to a successful start to a new school year, your children have made a fantastic start already.

I will keep you updated as we go along with a half termly newsletter and other updates when appropriate.

**Mrs Kent,**  
**Mrs Wibberley & Mrs Barlow**

(Class 1 Teacher, Teaching Assistant and Cover Teacher)

