



15 September 2017

Year One Curriculum Overview letter

Dear Parents

Welcome you to Year One. For many of you this may be the first time you have had children in a Key Stage 1 class, for others this may be a return visit. I hope this will be a super learning year for the children.

The focus for the first few weeks of school will be to help the children settle into their Year One classroom and become familiar with key stage one daily routines. The routines are different to life in EYFS and as a consequence the children may feel more tired during the early days. There are often a range of questions about life in Year One, so I have put together some information which I hope you will find useful.

Start and end of day procedures

Our classroom door opens every day at 8.35 a.m. School starts at 8.45. Early morning work is set out for children to access. To help the children become more independent I would like to encourage them to come into the classroom on their own in the morning. Please encourage your child to come into the cloakroom and place their belongings on their peg independently. The children self-register their lunch choices on entry. If children need to change their reading books they will need to put these, together with their reading diary, into the allocated book basket.

Please write on our whiteboard in the morning if your child is to be collected by an adult other than yourself. Alternatively you can use the form "I am going home with" for alternative pick-up arrangements. These are located by the parent information board in the dining room – please hand these to me or put in the office post box. If your child goes home with another adult, such as a child-minder or relative on a **regular** basis, please let me know in writing as we have a class list for such arrangements. Forms are available by the parent information board. Children will not be released without your prior permission.

Fruit and Water

The KS1 free fruit scheme is extremely successful and children enjoy having their healthy snack in the mornings. All children will be offered either a fruit or vegetable snack to enjoy. Drinking water is available in class and there will be a jug and cups for this purpose. Water bottles can also be brought to class.

Curriculum

Year One pupils nationally now follow the New National Curriculum. Attached is our yearly curriculum overview for your information. If you have, or know anybody who has expertise in any of these curriculum areas then please do not hesitate to contact me. It is always good to draw on our parent expertise! This term a visit by a Doctor, Radiographer, or Orthopedic surgeon would be welcomed to support our science topic. Children are also welcome to bring in related artefacts to support our learning. Please ensure your child's name is marked on these to enable easy identification. For our history we will be finding out about home memories and memory boxes which I will detail under separate cover.

Reading

We aim to promote a love of reading at St. Andrew's and encourage children to share books in our class library, read from focused book baskets and enjoy stories through whole class shared reading and story talk. Children will also develop their reading skills through a weekly small group teacher guided reading session. During these sessions the children will be working on identified reading strategies which are targeted to deepen reading skills. Children need to demonstrate these skills fluently across a range of genres. The books children take home should provide them with a more independent and confident read whereas books read with the class teacher are more challenging.



Home Learning

Children in Year One are expected to read every day at home and it is recommended that you aim for about 15 minutes. Please encourage your child to engage with what they are reading by talking about the illustrations (these are really important!) as these support early readers. Relating texts to their own experiences also engages children. As well as decoding words it is also important that children understand what they are reading and are able to respond and discuss the text. It is appreciated if you sign your child's reading diary and write a short comment. In addition children should build fluency counting forwards and backwards in ones, twos, fives and tens.

Year one children will be required to fulfil a termly speaking project relating to a personal area of interest. Your child will bring home a "News Reporter" card when it is their turn which will explain the task in more detail. Our news reporter session will take place each Monday.

The children may, from time to time, be tasked to carry out some research for a topic or respond to an open-ended line of enquiry. This would be notified to you via parent mail.

After half term the children will begin working on target spellings from the new national curriculum and will be challenged to work towards achieving spelling "leaves". The leaves will then be displayed on a spelling tree in class. Spellings will be worked on at children's own pace. All successes will be celebrated.

P.E.

P.E. will take place on **Thursday afternoon** and **Friday morning**. Please could you ensure that your child has both outdoor and indoor P.E. kit in their bag – T-shirt, trainers, navy jogger bottoms, navy/school fleece for outdoor games and navy shorts for indoor gymnastics and dance. Children will come home in their P.E. kit on Thursday and bring their school uniform in their P.E. bag. Please could the children come into school in their outdoor kit on Friday morning with their P.E. bag containing gym kit, in case of inclement winter weather. Children are not able to take part in apparatus gym with jogger bottoms. They do not need to change back into school uniform on Friday.

N.B. On Friday 22nd September the photographer will be taking school photos, please, on this day could the children come into school in uniform and bring their P.E. kits. Thank you very much for your support with this. Hopefully the logistics of this will work out!

Wet weather

Children will go out to play in all weathers. Please ensure they have a named hooded waterproof coat in school.

Parent Representatives

A letter will be sent under separate cover.

Parent Volunteers

A letter will be sent under separate cover.

Year One Cake Sale

Our class cake sale will be on 15th December.

Year One blog

Please follow the blog via the St Andrew's School Website.

I hope you have found this information useful. If you have any queries which I can help with please come and see me at the end of the day once the children have safely left the classroom and I will be available to meet with you.

Wishing you and your children a very successful year,

Yours sincerely

Ms A Tait

Class Teacher