



St. John's CE Primary School

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Head Teacher: Sarah Stone



Welcome to Year 1!

Dear Parents / Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Year 1. I hope you all had a lovely Summer and are ready for the Autumn Term as the children begin their journey into Key Stage 1.

A Bit About Me...

This is my fifth year teaching at St. Johns and I am extremely proud to be working here in such a lovely environment and with such wonderful children. I obtained my degree in Education at Manchester University before gaining my teaching qualification from Derby University. In my free time I enjoy cooking, walking, reading, listening to music, exercise & personal well-being and spending time with my family, especially my three grandchildren - Felicity, Sebastian and Thaddeus (Teddy). I am really looking forward to getting to know your children and working together with you to enable them to reach their full potential and 'Shine'.

Transition from Reception to Year 1

In Year 1, our aim is to make sure every child enjoys a happy and gentle transition from the Foundation Stage into Key Stage One. We build on all the wonderful learning and experiences from Reception, while slowly introducing more formal learning in a way that keeps the children motivated, enthusiastic and excited to discover new things. Play will still be an important part of our school day, helping the children to feel confident and engaged in their learning.

To support this transition in the first half term, the children will be enjoying Forest Learning on Thursday afternoons. Please send your child with wellies and suitable outdoor clothing so they can explore and learn comfortably. On Wednesdays, we'll also be having some messy play fun, so it would be helpful if your child could come to school in clothes that you don't mind getting a little dirty.

Included below is some useful information.

- ✚ The school gate is open from 8.35 am. Children should enter school as normal where they will be met by a member of the Year 1 team. If you have any concerns, or messages, please speak to the member of staff at the gate.
- ✚ The school day finishes at 3.20pm. We will bring the children to the school gate. Please be patient with us; it takes time to match each child to their parent.
- ✚ Free fruit is provided in Year 1 but children should bring their own water bottles (water only please) which they can access throughout the day. They can also top their bottles up throughout the day as required.
- ✚ PE days will be **Mondays** and **Fridays**; pupils are to come to school in their PE kits. Please make sure all PE kits are labelled with your child's name and earrings are removed.
- ✚ Please ensure that all items of uniform (especially jumpers/cardigans and PE hoodies) are labelled with your child's name.
- ✚ Each day, children should bring their reading record/reading book into class. All other items are available in school for the children so **they do not require pencil cases, notebooks or toys etc.**

Homework will be given out weekly on a **Friday** and is due back in on the following **Thursday**. Whilst the main focus of our homework will focus on reading there will be an additional task which will comprise of either a maths and/or topic activity and can be accessed using Padlet. Padlet is accessed via the Year 1 page on the school's website where you can find the link to create your account. Paper copies will accompany some of the activities. Completed homework can be photographed and uploaded to Padlet or returned to school (you do not need to do both).

As part of your child's reading development, they will bring home a reading book which is closely linked to their phonics learning. This will be changed each **Friday**. There will also be an e-book allocated to your child's account each **Friday** on Bug Club which focuses on the phonemes taught that week. Please note, for the first half term your child will be re-capping previous learning from Reception and may likely bring home a book they have previously read. Re-reading texts is an important part of your child's reading progression, helping to develop fluency, expression and confidence. Each time your child reads, please sign and comment in their reading record. Dojos will be given as a reward. In addition, your child will be bringing home a library book each week. This will be a book chosen by your child. It may not always be one they can read independently, but it is designed to be enjoyed and shared together at home, helping to develop a love of stories

For further curriculum information please see the school's website. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me on kcooper@st-johns-wetleyrocks.staffs.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Karen Cooper

(Year 1 Class Teacher)

"SHINE like the star you are."

