



St. John's CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr. C. Broome



Welcome to Year One!

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 sixth 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 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 Outdoor 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.**

"SHINE like the star you are."

Homework will be set each Friday and should be returned by the following Friday. While reading will continue to be the primary focus of homework, children may also be given additional activities where further practice is required. These tasks will be tailored to individual learning needs. In addition, a topic-based homework task will be assigned at least once each half term to support and extend classroom learning.

As part of your child's reading journey, they will bring home a reading book that is closely matched to their phonics learning in school. This book will be changed every **Tuesday** and **Friday**. In addition, a Bug Club e-book will be assigned to your child's account each **Friday**, focusing on the phonemes taught during that week. Please be aware that during the first half term, children will be revisiting and consolidating phonics learning from Reception. As a result, your child may bring home a book that they have read before. Re-reading familiar texts is a valuable part of the reading process, helping children to develop fluency, expression, comprehension and confidence.

Spellings linked to your child's phonics learning will be sent home each Monday and will be tested the following Monday. Regular practice at home will help children to secure their understanding of the phonemes and spelling patterns being taught in class.

We ask that you listen to your child read regularly and record each reading session in their reading record by signing and adding a brief comment. Children will receive Dojos as a reward for their reading efforts at home.

In addition to their reading book, your child will also bring home a library book each week. This will be a book of their own choosing. It may not always be a text they can read independently, but rather one to be shared and enjoyed together at home. Sharing stories in this way helps to nurture a lifelong love of reading and develops children's enjoyment of books.

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)

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