

## Welcome to St. Gemma's Class (Y1) - Autumn Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was lovely to see the children coming in so full of energy this morning. As you can see, we have a new name - St. Gemma - the patron saint of siblings. Throughout this year Mrs Watkins and Mrs Moore will be our Teaching Assistants.

Just a few things to let you know about:

### P.E.

Please send your child in with the correct PE kit- all clearly labelled with their names. It is **important** they have **plimsolls/trainers** as our lessons will take place **outside** whenever possible.

We would like the children to keep their PE bags on their peg until the end of each half-term, rather than taking them home each week. Keeping it in school saves everyone the job of remembering to bring it each week and enables every child to take part in the lesson. If, on occasion, we do have a "mucky" PE lesson, we will of course send kits home to be cleaned.

### Reading

As in Reception, we will send a home reading folder containing a book and reading diary every day. As you know, your child is free to choose **one** book from the appropriate box as frequently as required. However, you are welcome to help your child choose (at the end of the day) if you find that they are repeatedly bringing home the same book. I would ask that you/another adult/older sibling listen to your child read and discuss their book for 20mins daily as reading aloud is one of the best ways to help improve children's literacy skills.

Please write the title and date in the diary each time they choose a new book and feel free to add your comments on your child's reading, too.

To help your child develop the skills to read and understand texts, we teach a daily Guided Reading lesson. This will start at **8.50am** so please make sure your child arrives on time to school - the school doors open at **8.40am**.

**We are always looking for parent volunteers to come into KS1 to listen to and help the children with their reading. If you can spare an hour or so a week (on a regular basis) we would love to have you in school. Please see Miss Jordan if you are interested.**

### Homework

**All homework tasks are for your child to practise the skills we are working on in class.**

Homework should be completed by your child in their "Learning Log". **Adults are, of course, more than welcome to help with homework but all the written work must be in the child's own handwriting.**

**This will be given out on a Tuesday to be completed by the child - with help if required - to be returned for the following Monday.** I have included a note inside each Learning Log giving more details.

Please encourage your child by reminding them to check they have their Learning Log with them before they leave the playground at the end of a Tuesday. If your child is absent on a Tuesday and you want another parent/older child to pick up their book, just let me know. There will be no homework in the first week as the children are settling in and getting used to the new KS1 routines.

### Spellings

In Year 1, your child will bring home a spelling list to learn each week. These are based on the words and sounds that the government expect a child to know by the end of Reception and Year 1. We will have a weekly spelling test to check their knowledge.

In addition, each child will also have the chance to further reinforce their phonic awareness through their homework activities. **When doing any writing at home, e.g. in their Learning Log, please encourage your child to listen carefully to the sounds they can hear within an unknown/tricky spelling and to "have a go" at spelling it out independently, before you correct it.**

Please feel free to pop in if you have any concerns or queries. The **best time**, unless an appointment has been made, is **immediately after school** as we like to get the children in and settled as quickly as possible on a morning.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R. Petty (Class teacher)