



Welcome to Year 1



4/09/18

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Year One. Our aim is to ensure that the children experience a smooth transition from the Foundation Stage to Key Stage One. We will do everything we can to ensure that your child is able to cope with the changes in routine and the increased demands of Year One. We will expect the children to take more responsibility for their own belongings and for organising themselves.

The Year One curriculum builds upon and extends the experiences that children have had in Reception. Learning through play will continue to be an important part of the school day and the children will gradually be eased into more formal learning as the year goes on. The children are already familiar with 'Challenge Time' and so this will continue to be a part of our school day while the children settle into the new academic year.

Classroom Expectations

At St John's we have a set of golden rules that each class try their best to follow. At the beginning of the year we will talk to the class about our classroom expectations and each child will agree to try their best to follow the golden rules.

Children may have their name written on the 'Super Stars' list for a positive contribution in a lesson or exemplary behavior, earning them a sticker. We will also use *Class Dojo* as a reward system. Each child has their own avatar and can earn points for a variety of things which can be exchanged for prizes from the class prize box.

If a child's name is written on the cloudy side, minutes from their break or golden time may be lost, sometimes these may be earned back.

Contact Books

In Year One we will continue to use contact books as a method of communication. We ask that if you have written a message for us in your child's contact book, that you remind them to place it in the 'Message for Miss' basket that morning.



Spellings

The children will be expected to learn a set of new spellings every week. It is important that the children also learn the meaning of these new words. Spellings will be issued on a Friday and tested on the following Thursday. We won't start testing the children until the middle of Term 1. The children will have a book of spellings to practise and a test book, both books will need to be handed in by the children on a Thursday and sent home again on a Friday.

We will have two or three different ability spelling groups running each week. These groups are fluid and we may move your child up or down a group. If this happens, it is usually as a result of how the child is using the spellings in their everyday written work, rather than their actual test results. The spelling words may seem easy to begin with but they will soon increase in difficulty. Please be patient and don't worry if your child says the words are too easy!

We understand that some parents worry about their child's weekly spelling test results. We would like to emphasise that the weekly spelling tests only provide a very small amount of insight into how your child is getting on at school. It is not unusual for children to make excellent progress in English over the course of a year, but struggle on a weekly basis with their spelling test.

Homework

When we start sending out Maths and English homework next term, we would like the children to hand this in themselves too. Homework will be issued on a Friday and will need to be returned to school the following Thursday. We will always try to differentiate the homework so that children of all abilities can attempt it. If you feel that a particular piece of homework is too easy or too hard, please just adapt it to make it suitable.

We will remind children when things need to be handed in and ensure they know where to put them. We will of course support those children who need a little extra help.

Reading

At St John's children are expected to read 5 times a week. Each reading session should be recorded in the reading record book. At the end of each week we will count the number of times each child has read and enter them into the Give Me 5 end of term draw if they have read 5 times each week that term. In Year One we have a 'Reading Racetrack' that works alongside the Give Me 5 initiative. Each child will choose their own race car that they will move along the track after reading 5 times.



In addition to the reading books issued at school, please encourage your child to read a range of texts from home. Any text could make up a Give me 5 entry, for example reading on Bug Club, using a Kindle or reading a magazine/comic of their choice.

Reading books will be changed on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays starting from Week 2.

We have a class reading bear called Ronnie. The children are always excited to spend the week with the class bear and we ask each child to complete a small entry in the diary when it is their turn. More details will be in the diary when it is sent home.

PE Sessions

PE sessions will change each term and sometimes during the week so it is important that your child has their PE kit in school at all times.

Please ensure that before returning your child's PE kit at the start of a new term that their plimsols/trainers still fit them.

Slippers at school

We would like the children to bring in a pair of sensible slippers or cosy socks that they are happy to leave at school. We will allow the children to wear their slippers during some lessons, starting from Week 2, in the hope that the children feel more comfortable and relaxed in their learning environment. Working with no shoes on at school is custom in Scandinavia and has been found to help children engage better in class.



Personal Belongings

Please ensure that the following items are all labelled:

- ✓ Book bags (1 keyring permitted per book bag)
- ✓ PE kits – every item in the PE bag must be named (including socks please!)
- ✓ School uniform – jumpers, dresses, skirts, trousers, polo tops, shoes etc.
- ✓ Water bottles
- ✓ Lunch boxes
- ✓ Coats
- ✓ Slippers/ cosy socks – to be left at school
- ✓ Wellies (optional – see below)

Outdoor Area

You may have noticed that our Year One outdoor area has had a bit of a revamp! We have lots of exciting new equipment and resources that the children are going to enjoy using. We would like to give the children the opportunity to spend more time outside whatever the weather. As a result, we suggest that each child brings in a pair of named wellies to avoid school shoes getting too wet, these can be left at school. Please ensure that your child has a coat or waterproof in school with them on days when it is likely to rain.



We look forward to working with you and your child this year. You will have the opportunity to discuss your child's new routines and their initial progress during the first parents evening at the end of Term One.

Thank you for your support,

The Year One Team.

