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Head Teacher: Miss Sarah Gray

Dear Families of Year 1,

I would like to start by wishing you a very warm welcome to Year 1. I hope that you all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer holiday and are now ready for the exciting year ahead.

In Year 1, we continue to place a big emphasis on learning through play. The timetable will mirror what the children are already familiar with from Reception class with Phonics, English and Maths based activities taught in the mornings in short carpet sessions and a combination of adult-led small group work and child-led learning. The afternoons will mainly consist of opportunities for Child Initiated Play linked to their learning.

I will be teaching Year 1 from Monday to Thursday with Mrs Bowers teaching on a Thursday afternoon, and then Mrs Stewart will be taking over on a Friday. Our teaching assistant will be Mrs O'Dell and Miss Bolwell in the mornings and Mrs Wooton and Miss Chamilla in the afternoons. The children will be taught PE on a Tuesday afternoon by myself and by Mrs Stewart on a Friday afternoon. Please ensure your child arrives at school in their full PE kit on these days.

During the Autumn term, our main focus in Literacy lessons will be building up our knowledge of phonics to support both reading and writing skills. The children will begin with using their phonics to write labels and short captions to later move on to complete sentences with capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. Phonics and letter formations will continue to be taught using the Read, Write Inc materials as the children are used to in Reception.

In Maths this term, we will start by focusing on some more basic number skills and problem solving using mathematical thinking working with numbers up to 20. We will be practising counting, estimating, doubling and halving and securing the strategies we have been using in class for addition and subtraction with a short 'Mastering Number session to secure the basic number facts.

HOMEWORK

The most important thing that I would like the children to do at home this term is to read **daily** for around **10 minutes**. Each week, the children will take home a reading book which they have read at school and another similar book which will be appropriate for their reading level. This will be changed on a Thursday but please ensure that the reading book is put back into the book bag each day as we will also be doing regular individual reading at school. I would really appreciate your support by encouraging your child to read daily- find a time which suits your family. Please also spend time reading stories to your child and modelling a love of books and an enjoyment of reading. This is vital in their development as a reader.





Each child has been provided with a yellow reading record booklet in which I would like you to record your daily reading. Please write down any *High Frequency Words* (words we come across often but which cannot be sounded out) which your child found tricky so that we can work at school and home to help them to remember these.

Starting **after** the Autumn half term break, I will also introduce short spelling and maths tasks for homework, which will be set on our Year 1 Google Classroom. I will also be adding weekly updates to the Google Classroom to let you know what the children will be learning that week, including the phonics taught.

CLASS NOTICES

If your child is going home with anyone other than yourself, please let me know as I cannot let them go without your permission. Please send a message to our class email, year1@stmarys916.herts.sch.uk. If it is a permanent or regular pick up, one note is fine and I can add it to the 'Home-time' list.

If you have any concerns about your child's learning or well-being, please either arrange an appointment after school or let me know via the class email.

I am very much looking forward to the new school year and getting to know all of you that I don't already know! I hope that your child will soon settle in and enjoy all that is ahead.

Many thanks,

Mrs Zimet

