



St Mary's C of E Primary School
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Head Teacher: Mrs Lynne Osborne

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.

The Autumn term will start off relaxed with a big emphasis on learning through play. Especially in the first half of the Autumn term, 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. There will be a 15-minute afternoon break at 2pm.

I will be teaching Year 1 from Monday to Thursday and then Mrs Stewart will be taking over on a Friday. Mrs O' Dell will be our teaching assistant on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and Mrs Raheel will support on Wednesdays. The children will be taught PE on a Wednesday afternoon by myself and by Miss Gill on a Friday afternoon. Please ensure that the children have a full St Mary's kit, with PE t-shirt, shorts, joggers, St Mary's jumper and trainers. Please ensure that all kit is clearly labelled.

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 in small groups 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 in the afternoons.

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 will be appropriate for their reading level. This will be





changed on a Friday 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 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.

The children will also bring home a 'choice book' from the reading corner. Choice books are the children's free choice from a given selection and they should enjoy reading them or having them read to them. This may mean that they choose the same favourite books or that the book may seem too easy or difficult to read but we encourage this as the children are then truly reading for pleasure rather than being made to do it or it being too difficult.

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 shortly send out your usernames and passwords which you will need to access the Google Classroom. Please take the time to become accustomed with using the classroom in these early weeks before homework is set on it. Perhaps post a photo or send a message onto the class stream to practise.

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 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

