



ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

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Year One Curriculum Newsletter – Autumn 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! The children have settled into their new class very well and I have been very impressed with how well they have learned the new routines. I am looking forward to teaching your child this year together with Miss Trotter and Miss Lee, and am confident we will have a great year together.

We will begin this term with a PSHE focus to help us learn our 3 keys rules: Be Ready, Be Respectful and Be Safe. The children have already been sharing their ideas about what these rules mean to them and why they are important. Following this, we will launch our 'Relationships' unit of work, where we will think about the roles of people in our families and how they care for us. We will explore ideas of friendship and talk about what makes a good friend. We will learn the names of our body parts including penis and vagina, and the children will use the NSPCC PANTS resources to learn which parts of their body are private and how to keep themselves safe. In R.E. we will ask the question, 'Who am I?', and 'What does it mean to belong?' We will explore the different groups that we belong to such as our family, our class, our church, Beavers or Rainbows.

In History, we will talk about the past and learn about what life was like when our parents and grandparents were young. In Geography, we will learn about our local area and consider the question, 'What's it like where we live?' our fieldwork will involve a walk around the local area.

Reading - I am delighted with the super start you have made to the year with your daily home reading. It was lovely to read the positive comments in the reading record books. Daily home reading makes a huge difference to the progress your child makes in all areas of the curriculum. We use a range of different strategies to help your child become a fluent reader. In the front of the reading record are the reading strategies we will teach your child to use if they come across an unknown word. Ask your child to explain the different strategies to you. During Poetry Week, we will study traditional nursery rhymes. We will be encouraging the children to share all of the nursery rhymes that they know with their classmates.

Writing- We have started the term by writing our first names and surnames, ensuring they start with a capital letter. Please help your child to write their full name. When we are writing sentences, the children will be taught to say the sentence, count the words on their fingers, and write their sentence using a capital letter, finger spaces and a full stop. We will be writing our own versions of stories we read in class, beginning with 'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell. We will also write for different purposes, including instructions and recounts.

Spelling - In Year 1, we have 100 high frequency words and common exception words to learn. In addition to this, your child will have a list of spellings in their Purple Mash account, linked to the phonic sounds they are learning that week. The weekly spelling test will be on Friday.

Handwriting - Handwriting is extremely important. Your child will have a daily handwriting session, initially focussing on correct formation of letters in the different letter families. Good pencil grip and good posture is extremely important for neat handwriting.

Maths - A good grasp of basic number facts is essential for children when they are working on calculations and problems in maths. This term, we will embed our knowledge around place value for all numbers initially within 10 and by the end of the autumn term, within 20. We will be working on addition and subtraction and learn to read and write number sentences using the +, - and = symbols. Our work on shape will include the names of 2D and 3D shapes. Your child will benefit from your support to help them to learn these shape names.

Science - We will be learning about 'animals including humans'- We will identify and name a variety of common animals and sort them according to whether they are mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds or fish. The children will explore what different animals eat and decide if they are herbivores, omnivores or carnivores.

P.E. - This will be on Tuesday and Wednesday. Children need a PE kit of shorts, t-shirt and plimsolls. Thank you to all the parents who have named their child's P.E. kit. Please ensure that children with pierced ears only wear studs for health and safety reasons.

Homework - Homework includes home reading for 10 minutes daily; one Purple Mash spelling task (linked to the phonics sounds they are learning) and Numbots tasks.

Home time routine - In Year 1, the children come out of school in a single line. I ask the child at the front of the line if they can see the person who is collecting them and when they wave to their parent or carer, I let them go. I appreciate that if your child comes out near the back of the line you may have to wait for several minutes, but my priority is to keep your child safe and I thank you for your patience.

Meet the Teacher sessions take place after school on Tuesday 7th September and I look forward to seeing you at open afternoon/evening later in the term (dates to be confirmed). If at any time throughout the year you have a question or concern, please come to see me. I will check Class Dojo once a day for messages but all formal messages should come via a telephone call to the office.

I am confident that we will have a very successful year, working together, to ensure your child achieves their full potential.

Mrs C. McAdam



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