



ST JOHN'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

Headteacher: Mr M Ramsay B.A (Hons) Primary Education

www.stjohnsceaacademy.co.uk



Fenby Avenue
Lascelles Park
DARLINGTON
DL1 4UB
Tel: 01325 380725
admin@stjohnsceaacademy.co.uk

Year 1 Curriculum Newsletter Spring 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year. I hope you are feeling rested after the holiday and ready for a new term of super learning. I am delighted with the progress that the children made last term and am confident that your child will make even more progress this term.

Reading

Thank you for all the home reading you are doing with your child. It is lovely to read the comments you write in the reading record. Daily home reading makes a huge difference to the progress your child makes in all areas of the curriculum. We use a variety of different strategies to help your child read and these are on the inside cover of the reading record. This term we are sending home reading journals as part of our Year 1 homework. The idea of the journal is to encourage 'book talk' about the parts of the story that your child liked and disliked. They can also discuss any patterns that connect to your own life, and the puzzles section is to write down any questions that your child asks about the story. The journal is always a great success and it will enable your child talk confidently to others about their wider reading. The children have been enjoying their 'fast words' and we will be continuing to work through these this term.

Book Week dressing up day is on Friday 4th March and I am very much looking forward to seeing your child in their creative costume!

Writing

We have started the term off with a Dr Seuss favourite, 'The Cat in the Hat' and have been making rhyming strings. The children have loved it! Next, we will be retelling the traditional tale of 'The Ugly Duckling' and writing about it. This term we are focussing on building up our writing stamina (speed). The children will continue to say their sentences, count the words, write their sentences using a capital letter, finger spaces and a full stop (or question mark and exclamation mark). After completing their writing, the children will learn to re-read their work to check it makes sense. They will learn to spot their own mistakes and correct them.

Spelling

In Year 1, our spellings are made up of 100 high frequency words and 11 common exception words. Your child will continue to have a weekly phonic spelling test to compliment the phonemes they are learning in class. Thank you for the support you give your child to learn their spellings.

Handwriting

Daily handwriting practise is helping your child to form their lower and upper case letters correctly. Any handwriting practise you can do at home to reinforce the letter families will be greatly beneficial. A poster

with the correct formation is available on the website by [clicking here](#). Later in the term, we will move on to the first handwriting joins. The children will practise joining the following letters: at, al, th, ch, cl, in, im, cr, tr, dr, lp, mp, id, ig, nd, ld and ng.

Maths

A sound grasp of basic number facts is essential for children when they are working on calculations and solving problems in maths. We are having a big push to improve our counting skills - any counting you can do at home will support the daily counting we are doing in class. This term we are continuing our work on number facts for all numbers up to 10, then 20, working on doubles and halves and counting in 10s, 2s and 5s. We will be doing more work on addition and subtraction, as well as work on money, shape, fractions, division and multiplication. It would be wonderful if you could try to tell the time (o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to) at some point each day with your child.

Science

We will be learning about Materials and will be identifying and naming a variety of everyday materials, including wood, plastic, glass, metal, water, and rock. We will be investigating objects and learning to distinguish between the object and the material from which it is made. We will be asking questions about why certain objects are made from certain materials, e.g. what are the properties of glass that make it good for windows?

Geography

Our Geography work will focus on 'People and their communities' and we will be learning about cities, deserts, rainforests and coastal places where people live around the world. We will be learning atlas skills and all about the continents and oceans. We will then learn about animal homes and where our favourite animals live.

History

Our History work will involve learning about transport, and why the railway in Darlington is special. We will also learn about the first flight.

Art & D.T

Our work in Art will involve printing. We will also study the work of a local artist, Lucas Roy. In D.T, we will design and make a toy vehicle using wheels and axles.

R.E. & P.S.H.E

In R.E., we will be learning about Judaism. Our big question is 'Who is Jewish and how do they live?', later in the term, we will learn why Easter is important. Our PSHE work will include exploring and discussing our understanding of respect, honesty, responsibility and caring for our environment.

P.E

This will be on **Tuesday** and **Wednesday**, children need a PE kit of shorts, t-shirt and plimsolls. It would be a good idea to send in a PE kit and leave it in school until half term. **IMPORTANT - Due to changes in health and safety guidance, we can no longer allow children to wear any form of earring during PE lessons. Please ensure that, if your child wears earrings, they are able to take them out independently or they**



The SaGe Multi Academy Trust is a A Company Limited by Guarantee and registered in England and Wales under company Registration number 7984221. The Company is an exempt charity. The registered office address is Neasham Road, Middleton St George, Darlington DL1 2LD.

may not wear earrings on PE days. We will be practising sending and receiving objects and later in the term, the children will take part in dance lessons.

If your child requires any regular medication (inhaler and spacer, epi-pen) please could you ensure it is available in school and in date.

I look forward to seeing you at Open Evening on Wednesday 2nd March and Thursday 3rd March. We will issue more details about this nearer the time. However, in the meantime, if you have any queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me. I am in the playground at home time for quick questions and appointments can be made for anything that needs a longer chat.

Please note that due to Government legislation leave will not be granted for holidays unless there are extenuating circumstances.

The Year 1 phonics screening will be carried out the week of 6th June. All children must be in school this week. In order to best prepare your child for the screening, no holidays will be authorised in the weeks leading up to this date as we want your child to be as 'phonic check ready' as possible.

I am confident that we will have a very successful year, working together, to ensure your child achieves their full potential during their time in Year 1.

Mrs C. McAdam



The SaGe Multi Academy Trust is a A Company Limited by Guarantee and registered in England and Wales under company Registration number 7984221. The Company is an exempt charity. The registered office address is Neasham Road, Middleton St George, Darlington DL1 2LD.