



St John's Church of England Primary School, Watford

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Year One Curriculum Overview letter

Dear St John's families,

Welcome to our new school year in our shiny new building. The focus of our first few weeks will be to ensure that your children feel safe and happy in their new environment and that we continue to build positive relationships. Alongside this, your child is starting a new curriculum for their new year group.

To assist with the transition to the new Year group and the new building, we hope the following letter will be useful to you.

Entering School

Thank you for arriving promptly when the doors open at 8:40am where your children are greeted by a member of staff. The children independently walk up the stairs to the first green floor, where staff once again welcome them and assist them to their classrooms. The children will be using their own personal locker to store their coats and bags. As soon as the children enter the building, learning begins! When they enter their classroom, there are a range of independent morning activities which support the current learning.

If there are important messages to be passed to the class teacher, the member of the staff at the door or the gate is equipped with a whiteboard to record and pass on messages. Please go directly to the office if it is regarding form filling or other matters not directly related to the class that day.

Leaving School

At the end of the day, children will line up quietly on the stairs and when a staff member sees the appropriate adult, the child is sent out of the gates. There are members of staff at the gate and on the stairwell. If there are planned changes to the normal pick up arrangements, the office need to be informed before midday. In the case of an emergency, please inform the office of changes to pick up as soon as is possible.

If, at any time, you need a few moments with the class teacher, once all the children have been dismissed, please inform the member of staff at the gate and the teacher will come down.

Fruit snack and water

Children will continue to receive daily fruit from the fruit scheme. Please send your child with a named water bottle containing fresh water. For hygiene reasons, your child needs to remember to take home their water bottle on a daily basis to be cleaned.

Curriculum

The children will continue with an active approach to learning where we embrace the National Curriculum and beyond, including the children's interests. The Year Group termly curriculum is available on the school website for you to help support learning at home. As a school that takes learning outside of the classroom, we are always appreciative of volunteers to assist us on weekly and termly trips. Please do inform the school office if you are available and would like to assist.

Reading, Writing and Maths, as key core skills are encouraged across the whole curriculum and your support at home with this is part of our important parent/school partnership.

Home Learning

Daily

Reading

It is of paramount importance that all children embrace reading and books every day at home. This may be ten to fifteen minutes of reading the school books, enjoying a library book together, looking for letters and sounds in a magazine, reading a recipe, looking at symbols and signs in the local shops, plus the all important bedtime story. School reading books will be sent home weekly on a Friday. The number of books sent home will vary from child to child. Please also supplement this with your own books, and library books to ensure a wide range and positive daily engagement. Reading records accompany the school books and are sent home for parents to fill in as a celebration and record of the home reading. Children will be supported in their reading at school in many different ways. This may be a guided reading session, small group, one to one, whole class reading in context of a lesson, or in a library session. Teachers will not be logging the reading activity completed with your child in their reading record, as we know time is better spent on the promotion of reading skills. On a Thursday, the reading books and parent signed reading record books are collected in and new books selected by staff and children, ready to be sent home on Friday for the weekend.

Spelling

On a Friday the children will come home with their spelling home learning. This involves a list of relevant words (word families, phonics, alternate spellings, etc.) and an accompanying activity. The children are also encouraged to apply their spellings into full sentence work on the reverse page. These words will be used and applied within the weekly learning in class.

Weekly

During the week children will also benefit from any support with applying the Letterjoins cursive writing style. On the weekly newsletter there will be a link to a list of relevant ways to support your child with weekly learning. Encourage your children to talk to you about their learning. Use their interests to further expand on the learning in school.

Half Termly

During the holidays, we provide a very open challenge to engage and embed further learning. This themed approach is very flexible and enables a wide variety of responses from the children. It may be done independently, but we equally encourage families to learn and work together to complete the challenge.

Uniform

We are very proud of our St John's uniform and it is an important part of our school ethos. We thank you for sending your children to school dressed appropriately and as smart as possible. And yes, here it comes... every item must be named! Please refer to the website to ensure full compliance.

P.E.

Year 1 have Park P.E. on a Tuesday morning and school P.E. on Friday morning. They will come to school already dressed in their P.E. kit with their school uniform in their bags ready to change back into. Park P.E. is dependent on there being enough volunteers. Please see the office if you are able to help out.

Data Protection

As much as we understand that during special events and celebrations you may want to take photos, we must ask that try not to take other children than your own in your photo, and that these photos **MUST NOT** be posted on any social media. To keep children safe and protected, names of other pupils in the class will never be given out. Sadly, we are unable to assist with handing out birthday or party invitations and ask that parents please do this outside of the school. On this note, if you wish to hand out birthday cakes or sweets, these will also have to be shared outside of school when the children are handed over to their parents or guardians.

Resources

If you have any resources relating to any of our topics this term please feel free to bring them into school to share with the class or to display.

We are looking forward to a very successful year ahead!

The Year 1 Team