



St Stephen's C.E. Primary School

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Building Each Other Up in Love and Learning

September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you and your families have had a restful break and that your children are ready and keen to start their new academic year. As a staff team, we are already looking forward to the excitement and new opportunities which getting to teach a new class of children brings.

Curriculum

Attached at the end of this letter is an outline of what your year group will be covering in the curriculum this term.

Reading

It is impossible to over emphasise the positive impact that reading has on your child's education and development. This key life skill, when learned and enjoyed at an early age will improve your children's independent writing, expand their vocabulary, broaden their viewpoint on life, improve their concentration and expand their imagination. For these reasons we would ask that you devote a little time each day for reading together with your son or daughter. Whatever form these sessions take: whether you share a book, take it in turns to read, listen to your child read or you are there to pose questions about what has been read, this is one of the best ways you can help your child.

In key stage 1, a book will be allocated according to a book band colour and this will be reviewed regularly. We like to encourage the children to take ownership of their reading books and reading logs so they will be responsible for letting an adult in the class know when they need their book changing. If your child has finished their book, they may change it on any day of the week and as many times in a week. However, their reading log book must be signed by an adult to indicate the book has been finished. Please note that your child should be reading their book at 90-95% accuracy. Your child should also be aiming to change their book two to three times a week at least.

Attached to this letter is a selection of generic questions which can be asked when reading with your child, we hope that these may be helpful.

Spelling

The children will be taught spelling sounds each week during daily phonics lessons as well as common exception words (these are words that can't be decoded/spelt phonetically for example, 'the'). As part of your child's homework, we would like the children to learn a list of 6 spellings, which consolidates learning of the spelling sound previously taught in school. These can be learnt using the spelling suggestion card (this will be kept in your child's homework file but an additional copy has been attached for you). We don't expect the children to have to record their learnt spellings unless they wish to, but we do encourage daily practice using a variety of learning techniques.

Homework

All homework will be given out on Monday and will be expected to be handed in the following Monday. This year, homework expectations will be:

- 5 spelling (4 based on the weeks spelling pattern and 1 common exception word)
- Daily reading
- Alternate weeks of Scofield and Simms maths or Mathletics.



We will be supplying a cover sheet indicating the spellings to be learnt and which maths activity we wish your child to complete.

Homework will be acknowledge marked by the teacher or teaching assistant. If your child struggles with the homework or has found a particular task difficult, please inform your child's teacher or highlight it in the piece in order for the teacher to be able to see which concept they need to work on with your child.

Timetable

A copy of your child's timetable is attached.

Equipment

We will provide all necessary items for your child to use. Therefore we would like to request that pencil cases and personal stationary items are left at home and not in your child's tray or bag.

As usual, please can you check that your child has the following in school:

- Plimsolls, shorts and a t-shirt for PE lessons.
- Trainers, tracksuit bottoms and a spare pair of socks for Games.

We kindly ask that all items of clothing are clearly named.

PE

Beetle class will have P.E on Friday and Games on Monday.

Bee class will have P.E on Monday and Games on Thursday.

On these days we would like the children to come to school for the day in their P.E kits.

We have made this decision to ensure maximum learning time on these days.

This is a trial and we will be reviewing it in due course.

Religious Education and Worship

This year we will continue to work on our school values. These are: friendship, thankfulness, kindness, forgiveness, respect (for the environment), service and peace.

Each year group has been allocated with a spiritual value. During RE lessons and Class Worship time children will have the opportunity to learn and reflect upon their value using a range of resources, such as Biblical stories and verses, world news and events, and personal experiences.

The children will also be encouraged to take ownership of their year group value by thinking about how it could be implemented in to the school and wider community, for example raising money for charities or helping the school to be more eco-friendly.

The spiritual value for Year 1 is thankfulness.

Communication

As always, if you have any concerns, worries or just want a quick informal chat, please do not hesitate to get in touch with any of us. Catch us in the playground or email us:

Email addresses

Natalie McLellan natalie.mclellan@st-stephens.richmond.sch.uk

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Charlotte Warburton charlotte.warburton@st-stephens.richmond.sch.uk

With very best wishes to all of you,

The Year 1 Team

Questions to Support Progress in Reading in Year 1

Before reading the book:

- Can you point to the title? or What is this? (pointing to the title)
- Look at the front cover. What do you think this story will be about? What might happen in the story?
- Who is the author?
- What is an illustrator? What do they do?
- What do we call the writing on the back of the book? (Blurb) or What does the blurb tell us?

During the reading of the book:

- What is happening in the pictures?
- Who are the main characters?
- What sort of character is....? Is he/she friendly/ mean/ nice.../ How do you know this?
- What has happened so far? Is it what you expected to happen?
- What might happen next? How do you think the story might end? (Making predictions)
- What does this word mean? Read the words around it to help you figure it out? (context)
- How can you read a new/unfamiliar word? Can you sound it out and then blend it together? (Decoding)

After the reading the book:

- Did you like this book? Why? (Encourage children to develop their opinion about books by encouraging them to explain their reasons)
- What was your favourite part? Why?
- Who was your favourite character? Why?
- What was the most interesting/ exciting part of the book? Can you find it?
- What sort of character was....?
- Why did that character do ... (give a situation/ event from the story)?
- What happened in the story? Can you retell it in your own words?
- Is there a hidden message in the story? What is it?
- Do you like how the story ended? Can you think of another way the book could have ended?