



St Stephen's C.E. Primary School

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Building Each Other Up in Love and Learning

September 2023

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.

We will be holding our curriculum evening on Wednesday 13th September at 6.00pm. It covers much of this letter in more detail and we hope that it gives you both an understanding and an insight into life in Year 1.

Our Year 1 Team

This year our Year 1 teachers will be:

Mrs Easton (Monday - Thursday) and Ms Rose (Friday) - Curie

Mrs Warburton (Monday - Wednesday) and Mrs Gawn (Wednesday - Friday) - Pankhurst

Miss Rosa and Ms Rose- learning supports assistants across both classes

Religious Education and Worship

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

Each year group has been allocated 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 spiritual value for Year 1 is thankfulness.

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

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 to 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 flourish as a learner!



In Year 1, we will provide the children with two books per week. One which will be a library book (chosen by your child) for you to read to them and explore the themes/story together. The second book will be provided based on our phonics scheme 'Little Wandle'. This book will be allocated according to a recent phonics assessment and will be handed out on a Friday. It will need to be returned on the following Friday. The Little Wandle book will need to stay in your child's book bag as we will need to have access to it in order to read the same book within school time as part of their reading session.

Google Classroom

Year 1 has a Google Classroom which provides information and useful extra resources to support the curriculum. We let you know when it is up and running!

Homework

This will involve a paper based spelling task sent home on a Tuesday - to be returned the following Tuesday. We will then track and acknowledge completion. In addition, tasks will be set on Mathletics, which will be based around our current learning. The weekly activities to be completed are:

- An activity based on a list of spellings (based on the week's tricky words). These will not be tested each week.
- Daily reading
- A set Mathletics activity

If your child struggles with the homework or has found a particular task difficult, please inform your child's teacher via email in order for the teacher to be able to see which concept they need to work on with your child.

Please note that, as a school, we have moved away from testing spellings each week. Instead, we will be checking the spellings in each child's long-term memory through analysing their independent writing.

Timetable

You will have access to your child's weekly timetable for the Autumn Term on their Google Classroom. Please be aware this is changeable week on week, dependent on trips, visitors etc. We will let you know via class reps if PE days ever change.

PE and Games

Our PE and Games are as below. Please may we ask that children attend school on these days in their St. Stephen's PE kit.

- Curie PE - Thursday
- Pankhurst PE - Tuesday
- Curie Games - Monday
- Pankhurst Games - Monday

Trips

Bockett's Farm - Wednesday 11th October
Strawberry Hill House - Tuesday 14th November
Turner's House, St Margaret's - Spring Term TBC
Hampton Court Palace - Wednesday 8th May

Communication

As always, if you have any concerns, worries or just want a quick informal chat, please do not hesitate to speak to us at drop off/pick up or get in touch via the Year 1 email address.

year1@st-stephens.richmond.sch.uk

With very best wishes to all of you,
The Year One Team



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Questions to Support Progress in Reading

Understand, describe, select or retrieve information, events or ideas from texts and use quotation and reference to text.

What was happening at the beginning of the story?

True/False based on text

How many...

Give one example...

Which character...

Choose the best word to fill the gap...

Deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts

Explain the use of the word...

What impression do you get of the feelings of this character from the text?

Why did...?

Fill in the thought bubble: what might this character have been thinking?

Why did he feel...?

How did the character feel before... and after...?

How did the characters' feelings change?

Identify and comment on the structure and organisation of texts, including grammatical and presentational features at text level.

Label these parts of the text

How do the timeline / image / diagram / layout make it easier to understand?

Why is this element in bold / underlined / in italics?

What would be a suitable heading for this text?

Explain and comment on writers' use of language, including grammatical and literary features at word and sentence level.

Why does the writer use the word...

What words help the reader to imagine...

Which phrase best describes...

Why is the word ... in inverted commas?

