Year One - Saint Joseph Class

St. Joseph,
Watch over me and care for me
Just as you cared for the child Jesus;
And by your help,
May I come to know your Son,
And so grow in strength and wisdom
and the favour of God.
Amen

Welcome to the Summer Term!

We are very much looking forward to welcoming your children back for their fifth academic term in Year One.

We continue to use Class Dojo as our main method of communication. However, please do feel free to speak to us before school or at the end of the day if a face-to-face conversation is easier. Alternatively, meetings can be arranged via direct message. Please also keep an eye on our School and Class Dojo pages for news and useful information, and visit our webpage for photo galleries, letters and helpful educational links.

The following information is to support your child's learning:

The Year One Team

Mrs Walker teaches the class on Mondays, and Ms Green is the class teacher from Tuesday to Friday. The children are also supported by Mrs Cappa, an experienced and invaluable KS1 Teaching Assistant, who works in class every day. In addition, we are fortunate to have several other staff members supporting the children in a variety of ways throughout the week.

Please do let us know if you would like to meet any members of the team who work with your child. There is also a staff photo board just inside the school lobby if you would like to put faces to names.

If you are interested in volunteering in Year One - whether listening to children read, joining us on trips, or helping to prepare resources - we would be delighted to have your support, so please do get in touch.

Class Information

Class information is shared and updated regularly via our Class Dojo page. Please feel free to send us a message or speak to a member of the team if you have any questions or would like to discuss anything.

Homework

Daily homework includes:

- Daily reading (see section below)
- A phonics activity (set via Class Dojo) to support your child's secure progression in phonics. In Term Five, we will continue to follow Phase 5b (alternative phonemes)
- Word pots to support blending skills
- High-frequency word practice to develop sight vocabulary
- Number bonds practice (recall of addition and subtraction within 20 this term) and skip counting in 2s, 5s and 10s

Children can upload their homework and Word Pot videos to their Class Dojo portfolios once completed.

Each term, we also set a longer homework project linked to our class learning. This term, we would love children to complete a creative project based on our history topic, *'Pirates and Pioneers'*. Further details will be shared shortly via a separate letter on our class webpage.

Please let us know if you would like any support or advice regarding homework.

Reading

Children will receive two reading books from school each week, carefully matched to their reading ability and phonics level. Each book should ideally be read at least three times to help build fluency.

To support your child, please refer to the 'Top Tips' sheet sent home and ask questions about the text. Discussing what they have read will help develop their comprehension skills. A dictionary can also be used to explore unfamiliar words.

In addition to their schoolbooks, children are encouraged to read their own books or those chosen from the classroom library to help foster a love of reading.

Reading should be recorded on *Boom Reader* and is checked weekly. If at least three reads are recorded in a week, books will be changed. If five or more reads are recorded, children will be entered into a raffle for a chance to win a prize at the end of term.

Please remember that children should only bring their named red book bag to school, as we do not have space to store larger bags or rucksacks. Alternatively, their zip wallet (provided to protect reading books) is sufficient and can be stored in their drawer. Reading books should be brought to school every day, as we hear readers daily during our 'Drop Everything and Read' sessions.

Phonics Check

In Year One, the children prepare for the Phonics Screening Check, which takes place in June. During the check, children apply their phonics knowledge and skills to read a list of forty words

(some real and some ‘alien’). Further information about the check will be shared via Class Dojo nearer the time. You may also find the following link of interest:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/676e908e517edf5c74c83728/Phonics_screening_check_information_for_parents.pdf

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Maths

This year, we focus on learning number bonds to five, ten and twenty and counting in steps of twos, fives and tens. The children practise recall of these number facts daily in class. You can support your child at home to practise their step counting, number bond addition and subtraction facts (see Number Bonds file attachment on our class webpage for more information).

PE and Outdoor Learning

This term, children should wear their PE kits to school on Tuesdays and Thursdays (black shorts, red polo shirt and black plimsolls). Please ensure all items are clearly labelled with your child’s name.

For safety reasons, long hair should be tied back, and earrings should not be worn on PE days. If earrings cannot be removed, please provide tape or plasters to cover them.

PE is taught every Thursday afternoon by a professional coach from Signature Sports. There may also be opportunities to attend after-school sessions during some terms (details to follow).

We will also take part in Forest School and outdoor learning across the curriculum. We will notify you via Class Dojo when additional outdoor clothing is needed. However, children should come to school each day with a suitable coat for the weather. Wellington boots can be stored on the pegs outside the classroom.

Children should bring a water bottle to school every day. Juice or squash is not permitted in class. Water bottles (and lunchboxes) should be carried separately and placed in the designated boxes upon arrival.

Curriculum Overview (Summer Term)

An overview of the curriculum for this term can be found in the documents section of our class webpage. If you have any questions about the curriculum or any aspect of Year One, please do not hesitate to contact us via Class Dojo.

We look forward to welcoming you back to school!

Best wishes,
Ms Green, Mrs Walker
& the Year One Team