

YEAR 1 TERM 1

NEWSLETTER



WELCOME

Dear families,

We have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the Year 1 children this week and have been hugely impressed by their attitude to being back at school. They are being excellent at following the new rules we have had to employ to keep us all safe at this time, particularly all the extra handwashing that needs to be done. They have settled to their learning well and show respect to the adults in the school as well as each other. All in all, it's been a wonderful start to the year!

In year 1, we value the importance of play as a way to learn, more so this year than ever, given the interruption to their Reception year. Therefore, we are devoting much of the day to learning through play and the children are already demonstrating their resilience and creativity in these sessions. We will be building up the amount of time spent in more formal lessons as the year goes on. We will also be spending a number of sessions each week on Outdoor Learning so please make sure your child has suitable clothing for the weather in school – including wellington boots.

For the first half term, we will base much of our learning on books, beginning with finding out what happened to Humpty Dumpty 'After the Fall'. We will follow this with a mini-topic – All About Me – using the books Funnybones and Can I Build Another Me? Our final book of the half term will be The Snail and the Whale. We will use these texts as a starting point for many of our curriculum subjects, including English, Art, Science and D&T among others. In maths, we will concentrate on securing numbers to ten, including adding and subtracting, before moving on to numbers in the teens in the second half term.

Following half term, we will embark upon an exciting project entitled 'Where Are We?' This Geography-based topic will allow the children to explore (virtually!) the United Kingdom and compare our town to others in different areas. The children will then become Tour Guides, and produce videos about our school and its grounds for prospective parents.

Please ensure that your child brings a book bag to school every day. We will spend the next two weeks getting to know the children's reading skills in order to determine what level books they should be taking home. Please bear in mind that the children will bring home a reading book that is one level below the level they read with



the teacher. This is to encourage a sense of success in their home reading. They will also choose a reading for pleasure book, which may be one for you to read to them. Books will be changed on a Monday and quarantined for at least 72 hours as per our school's risk assessment. Your child will receive a Home Reading Record. Please read as often as possible and record this in the Reading Record. We ask the children to re-read the same book up to three times for them to practise reading fluency. Please indicate when you have finished with a book by writing FINISHED in the reading record. We may leave messages for you in there from time to time too.

On days when your child has a school meal, it would be extremely helpful if you could choose their school meal on the School Grid website before they come to school. <https://app.live-kitchen.co.uk/login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2Fcashless>

To support your child's education, please take every opportunity at home and when you are out and about to spot letters and sounds they know; practise reading and sounding out words; counting to 100; counting in 2's, 5's and 10's; naming shapes; and handling and counting money. To help develop your child's handwriting, please do finger strengthening exercises such as using tongs and tweezers to pick up seeds and sequins or playing with lego. Please also practise holding a pencil correctly, forming letters correctly and writing sentences using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.

Please ensure that your child is wearing the correct St Catherine's School uniform. (See the uniform guidance at the end of this letter.) Hoodies and jogging bottoms are not part of the uniform in Year 1. Please also make sure that you have named everything your child brings into school, including uniform, shoes, PE kit, drinks bottles and book bags. This will help us make sure that the correct items are returned to the correct child each day.

PE will be on a Wednesday. To reduce the risk of transmission, children will not be getting changed at school so please make sure that they come to school wearing their PE kit **every Wednesday.**

Thank you for your continued support,

Ms Maud, Mrs Sales, Mrs Butler, Mrs Eaton and Miss Greenwood



SCHOOL UNIFORM YR 1 - 6

- Only plain black shoes or smart black trainers are to be worn – no coloured trainers or boots except sensible plain boots in severe weather.
- Socks / tights must be grey, navy or white
- Light blue/white checked summer dresses or grey pinafore dress may be worn
- The school top is a sky blue polo shirt – this can be with or without the school logo
- Trousers/shorts/skirts should be grey. Skirts should be knee length and simple.
- Knitted St Cath's hats and baseball hats are available, as are school book bags, fleeces and waterproof coats
- Plain navy tank tops
- Navy jumpers or cardigans (with or without the school logo). NOT HOODIES.
- All coats should be plain black, grey or navy.
- A small, plain blue/black book bag (with or without school logo) is the only acceptable bag to carry books and homework to and from school.
- A small blue/black drawstring bag (with or without school logo) is the only acceptable bag to carry PE kit to and from school

FOR PE

- White or navy round necked tee shirt (this can be with or without the school logo)
- Navy shorts
- Navy joggers
- Navy hoodie (with or without the school logo)

JEWELLERY

- The only jewellery allowed is one small plain silver or gold stud earring per ear. This needs to be covered up or removed for PE but must be removed for swimming (you may wish to bear this in mind if considering ear piercing before swimming starts in early May)

