

Dear Year 1 Children and Carers,

Welcome to Year 1 and we are all delighted to welcome you back to school and hope that you managed to stay safe and well during lockdown. As you know I am new to the school and already I have been made to feel very welcome both by yourselves and all of the staff at St. Augustine's and I look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year. Obviously things in school are a little different to what you would have been used to last year and we have routines in place to ensure that the classroom and school is a safe environment for us to work and learn in.

This year we are lucky enough to have 4 members of staff in Year 1: Mrs Wilkins and Mrs Gardner will both working throughout the week as teaching assistance in Year 1, Mrs Tonkin will be teaching the class on a Tuesday afternoon and myself - Mrs Batten. Please be assured that throughout the year we will be working together very closely as a team to ensure consistency and the absolute best for all the children.

As you will know from Mrs Berry's letter to you at the end of the summer term, the timings of the school day are changing for lots of us. Please can I remind you that in Year 1, children need to arrive at school at **8:40am**, remembering to follow social distancing guidelines. Year 1 children will be greeted at the Chapel door each morning by myself and will then join Mrs Wilkins in the classroom to start their early work whilst everybody gets settled for the morning.

At the end of the day, please remember that timings have also changed a little. In order to follow government guidelines and limit the number of people gathering on the school site, Year 1 children will be collected at **3pm from the Chapel door**. Please ensure that if other parents are waiting in the area outside the Chapel you observe social distancing measures to keep everybody safe.

Please can I also remind you that PE kits should be brought in on a Monday and taken home on a Friday. In Year 1, we have PE on Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoons. PE kit must be in a named bag and on the children's peg. Due to current restrictions, we will be having PE outside unless the weather is horrendous therefore you may wish to send a warm jumper in too.

Our topic for this half term is '**Once Upon a Time**' where we will be exploring **Cinderella, The Princess and the Pea** and **Rapunzel**. We will be re-telling the stories, writing our own stories and even taking part in a Prince and Princesses Ball (socially distanced of course)

more details will follow in the next few weeks! As part of the topic we will be investigating different materials and their properties used in the stories such as bricks for castles, glass for slippers, materials for mattresses and thinking about which materials would be suitable and what challenges certain materials might pose!_In humanities we will be using simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of the school and its grounds as well as the surrounding area. Throughout the half term we will also be exploring Autumn as part of our study of the seasons.

TOPIC HOMEWORK

To link with our topic, you should have received a homework grid alongside this letter outlining a selection of different tasks to be completed before the end of this half term. The grid consists of 4 columns with different activities. It is important to make sure that at least one activity from each group is completed.

You will have the whole half term to complete your chosen activities, however I do advise that you do not leave it all to the last minute. You do not need to complete all of the activities in your homework book but can present them however you choose - pictures, models, writing, photographs etc. Towards the end of the half term we will then have a day where you will need to bring all your topic work in and we will share it together as a class.

Please do feel free to ask if you are unsure or need any support with the activities. Have fun!

SPELLINGS

Every week the children will have 5 spellings to learn from the statutory curriculum spelling list. The remainder of the spelling test will be on rules taught that week during spelling lessons. The test will take place on a Friday afternoon and the children's new spellings will be sent home on a Friday via the PiP letter.

. MATHS & ENGLISH

Each week there will be maths and English homework set on a Friday and due in the following Wednesday. We will be introducing IXL, which is an interactive online learning platform, to support our English and Maths homework. This is to minimise potential contamination with resources moving between home and school on a regular basis. We will be sending more information out shortly to support you and your child with accessing this at home.



EYFS and Key Stage One - Reading Challenge!

At St Augustine's, we believe that reading is an essential skill for all children, and we hope that they enjoy reading for pleasure. Our 'Reading Challenge' will continue this year, with the aim, to encourage children read aloud at home to an adult, develop their fluency and their love of reading! When a child achieves 30 'reads' this success will be shared in our Celebration Assembly on a Friday and children awarded with a special reading star badge.

These badges can be worn proudly on their school jumpers! Additional badges can be won at 60 'reads', 100 'reads' and 150 'reads'.

We would like a 'read' to mean around 15-20 minutes of sharing a book with an adult.

1 'read' = 1 day.

It still counts as 'a read' even if they have not finished the whole book. Please use the yellow reading records to record when your child has read at home, these will be monitored by staff.

Thank you for your support and hope that all children make super progress over the year to become happy, enthusiastic and more fluent readers.

Can I also say thank you to everybody who has returned any reading books, if you have any reading books at home please do send them in as soon as possible.

PiP LETTERS

This year, we will be going paperless with our PiP letters. All homework expectations and an outline of what we have been learning across the week will be outlined on this letter and it will be uploaded on the Year 1 class tab on the school website every Friday.

MEET THE TEACHER

Normally we would hold a 'Meet the Teacher' evening in early September for you to come into the classroom and discuss the new routines and expectations of the new year group. Sadly, due to government guidelines, these will not be held in person. However, we will be uploading a PowerPoint presentation onto the 'Year 1' class page area of the school website on Friday 18th September for your reference. This will hopefully answer questions that you may have about the new school year. If you have any further questions, please do feel free to contact the school and arrange a time to meet and discuss any queries or concerns.

I am very much looking forward to this year and thank you in advance for your support. After what has been an unprecedented year so far, I am excited to get started in what will be a challenging but exciting year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Batten