

Dear Year 1 Children and Parents,

Welcome to Year 1! We hope you've had a wonderful summer and are fully refreshed for a fun filled year ahead. We are so excited to have you all in our class and know we are going to have a fantastic year.

This year our team consists of Miss Mayes, Mrs Harrop (our class TA) and Mrs Harding who will be covering on a Wednesday morning during my planning time. As you will know from Mrs Berry's letter last week, the timings for the school day are returning to pre-covid times. This means that your child will need to arrive at school between 8:40am and 8:55am and enter through the Reception doors by Allsorts. The school day will then be ending at 3:15pm and the children will leave via the same doors.

Please can I also remind you that children must have their PE kits in school all week. In Year 1, we have PE on Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon. PE kits must be in named bags and kept on children's pegs. Please ensure all items are labelled to avoid any items going missing.

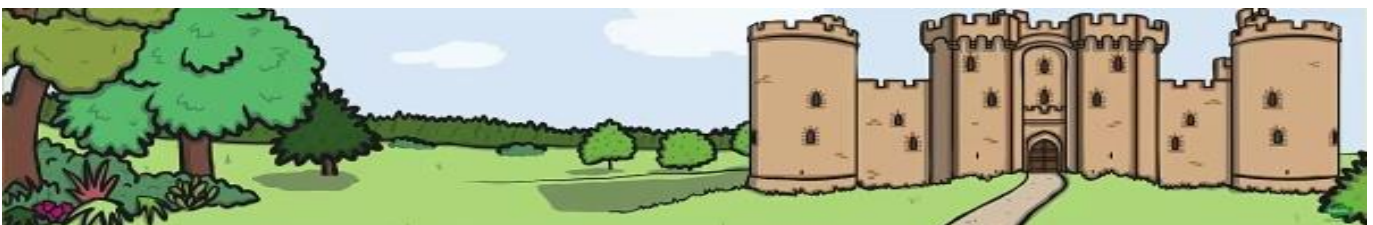
Our topic this term is 'Turrets and Tales' where we will be looking at the life of Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Elizabeth II, as well as the homes of royal family members and other castles. To kick start our topic, we will be having our own Royal Banquet and Ball in the week beginning 20th September. We will be doing some activities in school to prepare for this and there is also a crown making activity on the Home Learning Grid that is on Google Classrooms. We will also be reading traditional tales in English and writing our own versions. We will complete our topic by building our own castles and presenting them to other year groups.

Home learning

To link with our topic, you will find our home learning grid on the school website and Google Classrooms. These grids outline a selection of different tasks to be completed by the end of this half term. This home learning can be either submitted on Google Classrooms or if you have created something spectacular that you would like to display, please do bring it into school, the board is ready and waiting!

Phonics

Every Friday, the children will be given phonics homework to practise at home. The homework will be based on what your child has been learning in phonics that week. This term we will be recapping phase 3 and 4 and then later in the term, we will start phase 5. The children will be split into groups for phonics based on what they need so their homework will be tailored to this. This homework can be found on Google Classroom each week.



Mental Maths

To support with speedy recall of number facts, it would be great for children to spend a short amount of time practising their number bonds to 10 (e.g. $3 + 7$, $5 + 5$) and their number bonds within 10 (e.g. $2 + 5$, $1 + 4$). This can be done any way that the child would like and objects could be used to support them while they are learning the number facts.

Reading

At St Augustine's, we believe that reading is an essential skill for all children and we hope that they enjoy reading for pleasure. Therefore, each year in Reception and Key Stage 1 we set children a 'Reading Challenge'. The aim, is to encourage children of all ages to 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.

Please use the yellow reading records to record when your child has read at home, these will be monitored by staff.



Maths and English

Each week, there will be IXL Maths and English homework set on a Friday. This will either be based on what we have been covering in class or revising an area we should already know. Both Maths and English IXL links are optional.

Meet the teacher

We would like to invite you in for a 'Meet the Teacher' evening on Monday 20th September at 3.25pm for you to come into the classroom and discuss the new routines and expectations of the new year group.

We are very much looking forward to this year and thank you in advance for your support. After what has been an unprecedented few years, we are excited to get started in what will be a challenging but exciting year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Mayes

