

Welcome to Year 1

Hello. My name is Mrs Cangiano and I will be teaching Year 1 in September. This will be my 6<sup>th</sup> year in Year 1 and my 21<sup>st</sup> year at St. Joseph's!

I am really looking forward to meeting the children coming up from Reception and helping them to reach their potential.

I am subject lead for Art and Music and love giving children the opportunity to create and perform. This year, I have also been involved in the development of Maths teaching in school and have really enjoyed learning about new approaches to teaching which enable all children to succeed.



## How is Year 1 different to Reception?

In Year 1, we will gradually take a more structured approach to learning. We will continue to follow the **Read, Write Inc.** scheme for English and base our Maths around the **White Rose** Schemes of Learning.



Other subjects are taught through an overarching topic where possible, so that links can be made between different areas. This year, they have included topics such as, 'Famous people from the past', 'Toys' and 'Plants'. Topics can vary from year to year.

# National Phonics Screening Check

In June, the children will complete a phonics screening check. Each child has to read 20 real and 20 nonsense words. All 40 words will contain sounds that the children will learn over the course of the year. The statutory assessment takes place on a 1:1 basis, in a quiet, relaxed environment. All through the year, we practise decoding (pulling the word apart into the individual sounds) and blending (putting the sounds back together to build the word). This will give the children the skills and confidence to read unfamiliar words. Our phonics scheme calls the decoding 'Fred Talk' and we have a puppet frog called 'Fred' who helps them.



We will also continue to learn tricky words (also known as CEW or Common Exception Words) although these do not form part of the screening check. Our phonics scheme calls these 'red' words. Examples include: *the, was, some*.

## How you can help with phonics:

- Encourage your child to read to you daily
- Play phonics games [www.phonicsplay.co.uk](http://www.phonicsplay.co.uk)
- When your child gets stuck on a word when they are reading at home, ask them to:
  1. Look for *special friends* (letters that go together to make one sound e.g. *igh*, *ow*, *sh*, *o-e*)
  2. Fred Talk (sh-o-p)
  3. Blend

(More information on phonics can be found on the school website)

Many of the Year 1 reading objectives are about the understanding and enjoyment of texts. Take time to share other stories, poems and rhymes where *you* read and your child listens. Talk about characters, events, settings and encourage your child to make predictions. Discuss how the stories relate to their own lives. Bedtime stories are perfect for this.

# Homework in Key Stage 1

We have a consistent approach to homework across our two key stage one classes.

- Key Stage one:
- **Reading** should be completed every night and recorded in the child's reading record.
- **Counting** and home maths activities should continue especially telling the time and using coins/money (introduce totalling items and giving change).
- **2, 5 and 10 times tables** should be learnt by heart by the end of Year 2
- Count in multiples of 2, 5 and 10 (Year 1).
- **Learning bonds to 10** (which numbers go together to make 10)
- Parents should continue developing their **children's life skills** such as organising their own things for school, fastening coats, tying shoe laces etc.

# Expectations

At St. Joseph's we pride ourselves in maintaining high expectations and appreciate your support with these too.

- Children in neat and tidy **full uniform** every day with correct socks and black shoes.
- Only **one pair of plain, round stud earrings** (no shapes or patterns) in the lobes of the ears. Watches are allowed but not smart watches in which messages can be sent and received
- Please **do not** get your child's ears pierced during school time. It must be done at the beginning of the six week holiday and the children must be able to take the earrings out and put them in for PE sessions independently. Staff are not allowed to touch the piercings.

# Expectations (cont.)

- No other jewellery is allowed
- No nail varnish allowed
- No extreme hair styles – tram lines etc.
- Long hair must be tied back (for girls AND boys).

As you already know, as parents, you are the primary educators of your children. You all play a crucial role in the education of your children along with us all here at St. Joseph's.

- Please ensure you are encouraging your **child to be independent** e.g. carrying their own bags into school, having the equipment they need, handing in their homework / reading book on time etc.

# Expectations Continued

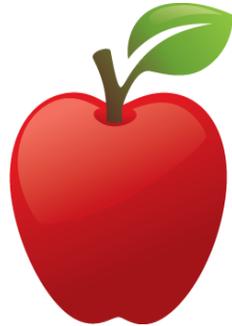
- Key Stage 1 children should be able to **cut up their own food** at dinner times unless they have a particular need in being able to do this
- Please encourage children to look after their belongings .
- Everything should be clearly labelled. Please check jumpers regularly to ensure names have not faded in the wash.

# Year 1

## Staying healthy

Healthy lunch boxes are **A MUST!**

Fruit is still provided in Year 1



## Water

Your child will need a freshly filled water bottle every day. Your child **MUST** take their water bottle home at the end of each day.

Your child does not need to provide their own pencil case. All equipment will be provided.

Have a lovely, restful Summer holiday and I look forward to welcoming your children to Year 1 in September.

Should you have any worries or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us via email [info@st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-jo-st.dudley.sch.uk)

