



Hello and welcome to Year 1. It has been a pleasure to see how well the children have returned to school and settled into their new classes. They have adapted well to our routine and are becoming more independent in class. We have been working hard with the children to ensure their transition into Year 1 has gone smoothly. Each morning has run according to the normal Year 1 timetable, with children engaging in phonics, writing, reading and maths lessons. The Year 1 classrooms were then adapted to mirror that of Reception during the afternoons, with continuous provision being laid out in the classroom to provoke learning through play and exploration.

We are really looking forward to the year ahead and hope that we can work together to ensure your child thrives in Year 1. If you have any questions, you can contact the office and they will pass the message on to Year 1 staff members. We look forward to meeting you at Parents' Evening at the end of this half term.

From the Year 1 team

Physical Education

PE will take place each week on a Monday and Friday afternoon. We ask that all children have the correct PE kit on these days. On a Friday, we will be working outdoors so children must have pumps in school. As it gets colder, a warm jumper and joggers will be needed for our outdoor PE sessions. Remember to remove earrings before school and tie up long hair. In case of accidents, we recommend a spare pair of pants and socks in their PE bags.

Homework

In Year 1 we send home a sheet called Handy Hints. Children in **1H** will receive their homework on a Wednesday and hand it in the following Wednesday. Children in **1B** will receive their homework on a Thursday and hand it in the following Thursday. It is really important for homework to be handed in on the correct day for a same day turn around. This will remain the same for the foreseeable. Most activities will be talking points. Each week your child will receive spellings we would like them to practise. These will be checked each week. There will also be a maths section with calculations. Please support your child to complete the homework each week. Please make sure that homework is completed in pencil and with the same expectations as if the work was completed in school.

Reading books

For the first half term, your child will have one book to bring home from the school library. This will have been chosen by your child from the school library and this is an interest book for **you** to read to them. Please do not ask your child to read it as it will not be matched to your child's phonic lessons. The book will be changed in the library every two weeks. After the October half term, your child will receive an electronic version of a book that is matched to their phonics level and will have been read in their guided reading group that week. Your child should be able to read it fluently and with expression. Hear them read it and celebrate their success as they will have been busy decoding and rehearsing reading with expression in school as well as comprehending the text. We will teach the children to read in school and ask that at home you simply listen to your child read the familiar book confidently and celebrate this with them. [Click here to read the St James's introduction to Little Wandle parent letter.](#)

Detail on how you can access the Little Wandle electronic books will be sent out shortly.

Phonics

[At St James's we follow the Little Wandle phonics scheme to find out more please visit our Phonics website page – click here](#)

Letter formation

At St James's we follow the Kinetic Letters Handwriting scheme. On our school website there are videos showing you how to form each letter. There are also posters modelling and describing the correct pencil grip for both left and right handed children. To find out more and to access resources to use with your child at home please [click here to visit our letter formation page](#)

Curriculum

You can view the Year 1 curriculum overview and Autumn Term Information web by clicking on the link below

[Link to curriculum page on website](#)

Snack

The children are provided with a healthy snack each day to eat at morning break time. This is usually a piece of fruit but can include things like cherry tomatoes or sugar snap peas. If you prefer to send in a snack from home, we ask please that it is a piece of fruit or vegetable. As we are a healthy school, the children should have fresh water to drink in their school water bottles. The children have all been given a new water bottle which they keep on their table to drink regularly. They can access fresh water to top their bottles up throughout the day.

Reach

At St James's the word 'REACH' helps us to be the best learners we can be. Each letter stands for a type of excellent learning behaviour.

In class we can earn REACH points for displaying exceptional learning behaviour.

The five elements of REACH are:

- Responsible learner – happy to be here; manage ourselves well; know what to do if we are stuck; motivate ourselves.
- Enthusiastic learner – ready to learn; know how I like learning best; take risks; adaptable.
- Actions learner – manage distractions; focus; work well with others; manage information.
- Creative learner – ask great questions; make links between the classroom and the world outside; enjoy challenge; enjoy stories.
- Have a go learner! – it is ok to make mistakes; be an explorer; listen and react positively; I'm up for it.

PTFA

Our fabulous PTFA are always keen to welcome new members and volunteers. If you would like to get involved or just find out more, please contact the school office.

Even in the current climate our PTFA are finding creative ways to support school. Currently the PTFA has set up an Amazon wish list where parents can purchase a book for our classrooms. You can access the list using this link:

Praise assemblies

Every Friday we have a Praise assembly where we celebrate achievements in school over the week. We also love to hear about the pupils' achievements out of school too. This can involve them bringing in any trophies, certificates, letters or medals so that we can celebrate in our Friday Praise assembly.