



Holy Trinity C of E Primary School

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Dear Parents,

A very warm welcome back to school and to the start of Key Stage One! We are delighted to be back and very much hope that you and your child are beginning to settle well into the new school routine. We are enjoying our time with the class, getting to know each other and expanding our enthusiasm and motivation for learning.

We are really looking forward to our Year 1 learning journey this year and hope that your child thrives, makes good progress and enjoys the year. With this in mind, the following information about the curriculum this term should help you understand what we are covering and guide you in supporting your child. These topics have been devised to capture the children's imagination and inspire them in their learning.

Reading

Reading is **the** key to accessing every area of the curriculum so it vital that together we support their progress in this area. The children have been issued with a reading diary in which to record their reading both in school and at home. Your support with daily reading and the discussion of texts at home really helps to progress skills in reading. These discussions should not only focus on the fluency of reading but on key comprehension skills such as sequencing and prediction. Having read with your child, please make a brief, positive comment in the reading diary.

Reading books will be changed on **Mondays and Thursdays**. A 'Bug Club Phonics' book will be chosen and sent home for a week on a **Monday**. This book reflects the sounds the children have learnt in lessons already; please re-read these to develop their fluency of tricky phonic sounds. We will be teaching our phonics daily through the programme, 'Bug Club'.

Homework

Alongside daily reading, Key Stage One children will be set additional homework tasks. Homework will be set on a **Thursday** to be completed by the **following Tuesday**. Homework should be completed and returned to school in the homework folders they have been issued with.

The homework set helps consolidate the work done in class, this includes phonic sounds, along with English and maths topics. We will be teaching the children to form their letters cursively in order to help them to achieve joined-up handwriting early. With this in mind, as we develop this skill please encourage your child to complete their homework task using cursive script and with clear presentation.

As in previous years, during each small term your child will have a spelling list – their Spelling Star words. The words on this list are Year 1 high frequency words along with tricky words that are often misspelt, so learning these will be essential for both their writing and reading skills. They will be tested on these during the last week of each short term. Please encourage your child to practise spellings and revisit old spellings they found challenging. It will be of benefit as they continue up through the years.

Spelling Shed

In Year 1 we will be setting the children Spelling Shed homework each week as well; passwords for this will be sent home with your child. Spellings will be set on a Tuesday with your child then being tested on these words the following Tuesday.

P.E.

Swan Class have P.E on a Tuesday morning and Thursday afternoon with Mr. Whittle. On these days they should come to school in their PE kits, staying in them all day. For the vast majority of the year, sessions will be outdoors so it is important that the children have trainers in school. The uniform is a polo shirt (with or without the school logo) and navy shorts, although as the weather gets colder the children will need navy track suit bottoms instead of shorts. Please see the website for school uniform information. ALL items of uniform should be named. We are always grateful to parents who do this; it is incredibly helpful, as we often spend considerable amounts of time trying to reunite children with unnamed uniform or trying to locate uniform when a child loses an item which is not named.

Classroom Equipment

In Key Stage One all stationary is supplied in a shared table pot. Therefore, the children do not need to bring in their own pencil cases or equipment. Children can bring in their own packed lunch or you can pre-order a hot meal using our online system.

Water bottles should be filled each morning before school and in KS1, as in Reception, we serve fruit at snack times. As cloakroom space is limited, please only send your child in with their Holy Trinity bag (with their reading diary and books in) rather than a rucksack. They need bring nothing else to school.

Curriculum

In **English**, Year 1 will focus on reading skills, segmenting and blending phonic sounds with Bug Club, early SPAG (spelling, punctuation and grammar) and handwriting. These skillsets will be developed through the study of stories such as 'The Three Little Pigs' and other traditional tales with a variety of repetition for example, "I'll huff and I'll puff and I'll blow your house down".

We will focus on using the correct pencil grip and seating position when writing so that good habits are embedded, and the children will practise forming all letters correctly and cursively. We are aiming for the class to write clear sentences demarcated with capital letters and full stops, a key target for the year.

In **Maths** this term, the children will be learning about place value and addition and subtraction within 10. A concrete understanding of place value underpins nearly every type of mathematical method so it is fundamental to strengthen this knowledge. We will do this by sorting, counting, comparing and ordering numbers moving onto how to add and subtract these numbers in a multitude of ways. We will also be looking at various 2D and 3D shapes later on this term.

In **Science** this term the topic will be materials. By the end of the topic the children should be able to distinguish between objects and the materials they are made out of as well as identify a variety of materials and understand why different objects are made from certain things. We will use experiments, group work and outdoor work to discover more about the everyday materials we use. We will also study the work of the scientist Charles Macintosh. Moving forward, we will then investigate seasonal changes, observing and gathering evidence on how we experience the four seasons, their differences and similarities and the weather associated with each season.

Our **Geography** topic this half term starts with a study of their locality, the UK, including the exploration of the four countries that encompass the UK, their capital cities and the surrounding oceans. We will use a variety of resources such as atlases, digital and paper maps and globes. The children will develop their understanding of simple compass directions (North, South, East and West) and locational and directional language [for example, near and far; left and right], to describe location. During the second half of the term, our **History** work will centre around castles, looking at the past and present using a local significant place, Windsor Castle.

Our theme for **RE** this term is 'belonging' and we will take a look at signs of belonging – for example 'What do we get from belonging to a group?' We will explore the definition of belonging, how this relates to our lives and within the Christian community. The events and underlining moral of the story, 'The Lost Sheep', will promote the idea of how we are special and what makes us feel this way. Moving towards Christmas, the children will explore and compare the celebration of Harvest and Christmas, questioning their meaning, differences and similarities.

At the start of the term **PSHE**, under the heading of 'my healthy self', will focus on our emotions before we move on to learning how to promote positive friendships and take care of each other.

In **Art & DT** Swans will begin their Autumn Term learning how to make a stable structure before ending the term with painting, printing and a study of the artist Jasper Johns.

In **Computing**, the children will be introduced to algorithms for the first time. Within **Music** this term we will be exploring how to keep a pulse.

This term the children can look forward to Science & Technology Week and then Maths & Computing Week as we have in the past.

Attendance:

In line with the DfE, it is our aim that the attendance of pupils at our school is as close to 100% as possible.

An attendance figure of less than 90% (**which equates to a child missing half a day of school every week**) is significant; in these circumstances, a child is classified as **persistently absent**.

While we understand that there are genuine reasons, notably illness, which mean it is not appropriate to send your child to school, as I am sure you can appreciate, any time away from the classroom is incredibly disruptive. A lesson missed puts a child at a disadvantage especially when that lesson falls within a sequence of planned learning activities. It can increase anxiety and in some cases affect social interactions and friendship groups.

In addition, research has been carried out which shows a clear link between attendance and attainment at all key stages: [The link between attendance and attainment in an assessment year](#)
In summary, from the data analysed: at KS2, pupils who attended school nearly every day in Year 6 (with an attendance rate of 95-100%) were 1.3 times more likely to achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths compared to pupils who only attended 90-95% of the time. **This means missing just 10 days of Year 6 reduced the likelihood of reaching the expected standard by around 25%.** Pupils who attended nearly every day were 1.8 times more likely to achieve the standard than persistently absent pupils who only attend 85-90% of the time (relating to 4 -6 weeks more time in school).

The trend continued into Year 11: at KS4, pupils who attended school nearly every day in Year 11 (with an attendance rate of 95-100%) were 1.9 times more likely to achieve the Grade 5 in English and Maths GCSE compared to pupils who only attended 90-95% of the time (relating to up to 2 weeks more time in school over the course of a year) and 3 times more likely than persistently absent pupils who only attend 85-90% of the time (relating to 4 - 6 weeks more time in school). **This means missing just 10 days of year 11 reduced the likelihood of achieving grade 5 in English and Maths by around 50%.**

Therefore, we encourage you to send your child to school unless they have a temperature, are vomiting, have diarrhoea or any of the contagious illnesses as outlined in NHS guidance: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

A request for term time absence for holidays is not permitted. Please refer to the RBWM term time dates that are on our website and that you have been sent a copy of: [School term dates 2026/27 | School term dates | Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead](#)

Punctuality:

Arriving promptly in the morning is also important as it will ensure a positive start to the day for your child. The school gate opens at 8:45am **with the expectation that every child has passed through by 8:55am.** The gate will be locked at 9am at which point your child will be marked late.

For a child arriving late, entering a classroom where their peers have already begun the day can be trauma-inducing. Their start to the day is less calm and it is likely they will miss out on early morning activities designed to recap, motivate and engage. Therefore, we encourage you to ensure your child arrives at school as close to 8:45am as possible.

We are excited about teaching your children and having a very productive Autumn Term. We are just as keen to meet you over the course of the year and we look forward to you being a part of the Key Stage 1 team at Holy Trinity. Once again, if there is anything you are unsure of, please contact us through the office and we will arrange to speak to you.

While this is a class newsletter containing specific information relevant to our class, on a Friday the school newsletter will be emailed to you and posted on our website. Please find a moment to read the weekly newsletter as it will contain important information to help you navigate the term. Thank you.

Thank you for your support.

Miss Bowater and the Year 1 Team