



Year 1 Parents

6th September 2021

Re: Welcome Letter



"You're braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think." A.A. Milne

Dear Children and Parents

A very warm welcome to you all!
Please find hereby some information regarding Year One.

Teachers

I am very pleased to inform you that from this term onwards, Mrs Anne Stanley will be teaching Year One on Wednesdays. Mrs Stanley and I have worked in tandem in Year One before and we are very happy to have the opportunity to work together again.

Start of the day

The children are welcomed into the class from 8.30am with registration at 8.45am. Drop off and pick up is by the entrance into the main school building. Please, follow the drop off and pick up directions as detailed in Mrs Collyer's email.

Should you have an urgent message to pass on, please do not leave it as a note in the reading record as it may not be read until later in the day. Instead, I would be grateful if you could email Pam Marks who will forward your message to me.

Topics covered this autumn term.

Please find a topic overview attached to this letter.

In English, learning new sounds in phonics to further increase confidence in reading, will be an important aspect of the curriculum as they will be applying this knowledge to spell a greater number of words in order to begin to write short narratives.

In Mathematics, the traditional topics will be covered in an engaging way, for each concept moving from working with a variety of concrete materials, to working with pictures to represent the structures and finally to more abstract representations using numbers and symbols. Mental Maths and Maths Fluency with rapid recall of number bonds and addition and subtraction facts are practised alongside this.

Handwriting

A brief note about this aspect of English writing. We shall build on the excellent start made in Year Reception and steadily go from a pre-cursive to continuous cursive handwriting style by joining up the letters within words. Capital letters will be consolidated too. A letter and a number formation sheet have been attached to this email.

Homework

It would be beneficial if your child could **read to you for about 10 minutes daily**. Reading is a very important skill and at school we aim for the children to be read with at least 4 times per week, which may include reading in a group and extra phonics sessions. The latter two will be recorded in the Reading Record as 'Guided Reading' and 'Phonics' respectively. Please do sign the reading record and write down the number of the pages read as well as any comments you wish to record.

On Tuesdays, the reading books will be checked and new books will be given when needed but there will be no individual reading.

From week 2 onwards, the children will be given some **weekly spellings** as well as a short weekly **Mathletics task**. You will receive a separate letter, covering each of these aspects of homework.

Later on in the school year, another homework task will be set, details of which will follow in good time.

Play clothes and sports kits

The children need two bags: a string ('tortoise') bag for their play clothes and a red linen bag for their PE kit, both available from the uniform shop. **Please label these bags on the outside** so the children (and teachers!) do not need to open the bags to check whose bag it is. Also, please label all other items clearly too, preferably in an easily visible place, including socks as the children can be challenged to recognise their own unlabeled items of clothing.

They will wear **PE kit into school on Wednesdays** and bring in their uniform. They will then take the PE kit back home again on Fridays. Trainers and Astro shoes will remain in School.

May I kindly but urgently ask for all PE shoes to have **Velcro** strips, as shoe laces take too much time. Thank you!

Art

Thank you to those who have already brought in a **painting apron**. Should you need a new one, please do not feel you have to purchase one. I am happy for it to be an old adult shirt (collar and part of the sleeves cut off).

Snack

Please give your child a healthy morning break snack to bring into school. Preferably not yoghurt pots and spoons because, although healthy, they are not safe to walk around with at play-time. The morning snack needs to be in a separate container/wrapping, not inside the lunchbox, so the children can easily access it and take it outside with them.

If your child participates in an after school club, please provide them with an **extra snack** which they will eat before the club starts.

Medical health

Please make sure the school has an **updated** written record of any allergies or dietary requirements your child may have.

Rewards

As in all classes, Year One has a behavioural 'ladder' with which **excellent work and great behaviour** are celebrated. In Year One the children each have a named wooden peg onto which stickers will be added when they move from green (Ready to Learn), through silver (Pat on the Back) to Gold (Reward sticker). When a child has collected 10 small stickers, they have earned a special big reward sticker.

This peg will also be used for self-registration in the mornings.

In addition, there is the **Smiley Jar** for whole class rewards with a treat from the teacher when completely full and, last but certainly not least, there are the weekly Mission in Action rewards on Fridays, awarded by teachers, teaching assistants (TAs), and, for very special achievements, by Mrs Collyer. They focus on the four pillars of Sacred Heart School life: LOVE, LEARN, GROW and WORSHIP. This all in addition to the regular pats on the back and praise the children receive in less formal ways at any time during their learning!

Mrs Stanley and I are very much looking forward to getting to know you and the children. Should you have any questions or wish to discuss something with us during the school term, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Pam Marks by email.

Thank you very much in advance for all your support.

Yours sincerely

Veerle Griffiths

Veerle Griffiths
Year One Teacher



Attachments: Topic overview – Letter and Number Formation Sheets

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o p q r s t u

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