



*Mrs McCulloch*  
*Mrs Mullan*

## Behaviour Systems

Adults in Year 1 will be constantly looking to celebrate children making the right choice, encouraging others to follow suit. In Year 1, we are going to be continuing to implement our whole school behaviour system "**The St Bernadette's Way**" as in our behaviour policy. An additional aspect in Year 1 is those children that achieve 'above and beyond' will get 'above and beyond time' where they will receive an extra golden time.

### **Class DoJo**

This is an additional, interactive and fun reward system. The children have a picture icon that goes with their name and they and staff can click on the icon to reward a DoJo for good behaviour or achievements. The children can hear a sound every time the DoJo is rewarded and also see their score increase. At the end of each week, I award a certificate for children with a score of 35 and above.

Other rewards include: verbal praise, stickers and stamps, house points, merits, good values and golden time. I appreciate that as parents, you like to be informed how your child is behaving. The St Bernadette's Way is an ongoing behaviour chart that changes by the day so if your child frequently makes the wrong choices, I will have a chat with you so we can all work together and help your child understand that good behaviour is essential to the educational experience and their happiness and wellbeing while in school.

## Star of the Day

At the end of each day, a child will be chosen to be Star of the Day. They will be rewarded with a certificate. The next day they will get to be a special helper for the day.

## Edgar the Elephant

Each **Friday**, a **friend of the week** will be chosen; the children will have the opportunity to bring home 'Edgar' our resident elephant teddy. They will be asked to look after Edgar over the week and record in their learning journal what they do with him. If your child is not yet able to do this, it is perfectly acceptable for you to help write this or use photographs that can be sent over google classroom. This does not have to be adventurous, more how your child showed Edgar they are a good friend by looking after him. Please return by the following **Thursday** so your child can share their Edgar news with their friends in class.

## Changing Home/School Reading Books

All children will choose a reading book from the library on a **Monday**. This will remain in their school bag daily and they will be given the opportunity to change it weekly.

As in Reception, the children will be working on the 'Little Wandle' program and will bring home a reading book on a **Thursday**. This book will have been looked at during reading sessions throughout the week before it is brought home. This book should remain in your child's bag daily and will be collected every **Monday**.

Your child will also bring home a 'sharing book' to read that will be linked to reading levels. This book will be changed on a **Monday** and a **Friday**, where appropriate. If you have heard your child read, we ask you to sign the diary and then we will change your child's reading book. Sometimes the longer texts may take several days to read and so we ask parents to record the pages that they have read with their child. Although I appreciate we may at times have missed your signature and a mistake may have occurred, we have a tried and tested system that usually works very well, stops children rushing through the reading scheme without having the secure skills to comprehend the text and keeps children engaged and have an enjoyment of reading at the correct level.

At the front of your child's diary will be a ladybird. Every time your child reads at home, one of the ladybird's spots will be coloured in. Once all of the ladybird's spots are coloured, your child will receive a prize. Remember, the book does not have to be completed nightly, but 10 minutes reading a night will be beneficial to your child.

The diary is also an excellent way in which we can communicate with each other, so please feel free to write short notes that you need to bring to my attention. However, please can I ask you not to write long detailed and sometimes personal messages in the diary, but please speak to me after school or indicate when I can make a phone call to you to discuss the matter.

## Handwriting

In Year 1, your child will begin to start forming their letters using the cursive style of writing. This method continues throughout Year 1 until they are ready to join their letters (a Year 2 expectation). I would like your child to practise using this style of writing when I send home their spellings to be practised during the week, or when writing in their homework journal. This is a new way of forming their letters for your child, do not worry as we practise our handwriting daily and I know it takes a little time to adjust. I have included a copy of the handwriting sheet, which shows you how each letter is formed.

a b c d e f g h  
i j k l m n o p q  
r s t u v w x y  
z

a b c d e f g h  
i j k l m n o p q  
r s t u v w x y z

## Google Classroom

This year we will be continuing to use *Google Classroom* as a way for children to remotely access learning. I will be setting homework for the children on *Google Classroom* every half term, coinciding with the due dates for learning journals. These activities may include practical activities that do not involve submitting any work, work where photographs may need to be submitted and some pieces that should be completed on a tablet/computing device.

The children are encouraged to complete this homework as it gives them an opportunity to remind themselves of how to use *Google Classroom*. Your child's email address can be found in the front of their homework diary. Their initial password is **Bernadette1**. If this needs resetting, please make a note in your child's diary. Please accept the invitation that was sent to your child's school email to join this year's Year 1 Good Classroom. If you have not yet received an email to join our class, please join using the code **25jayds**.

## Outdoor Learning

In Year 1, the children will have further opportunities to take part in outdoor learning sessions. In order to get the most out of these sessions, your child will need to wear their outdoor learning #kit. Children should be prepared to get muddy and wet, and should make sure they have plenty of layers of clothing and waterproofs as we will be outside whatever the weather!

As sessions take part at different times of the year, I would advise the following items for forest school:

- Vest/t-shirt
- Sleeved top
- Jumper or fleece
- Full length trousers/joggers/leggings (not jeans)
- A coat with a hood (preferable water/showerproof)
- An old pair of trainers, wellies or boots
- Optional items: scarf, hat, gloves, waterproof trousers, small towel, sunhat, sun cream

Please note, we are not asking you to go out and buy these items, old clothing (something that could get dirty) is more than sufficient. Should you require any support with obtaining items above, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself or the school office.

Year 1 will have forest school on a **Monday** afternoon in **Spring 2** and **Summer 2**.

## Learning Journals

Learning Journals are a unique personalised learning resource for children. In the Learning Journals, children record their responses to learning tasks set by their teacher. Each log is an individual record of the child's thinking and learning.

Research in schools where Learning Journals are used shows that they become an essential part of the teaching and learning programme and have had a major impact on the drive to develop a more independent learner.

### **How can parents help?**

Learning Journals are intended to improve the partnership between school and home. We need your support to make this venture a success. Children will be encouraged to take ownership of their homework. Some tasks involve children learning life skills through activities with family members, whilst others involve children recording what they know and understand about a concept they have been taught in school. At home this means:

- Giving children time to talk about the task and explain what they understand
- Some tasks involve a family member spending time with the children to complete the task
- Offering ideas about how they might present their work, but encouraging independence
- Ensuring there is time and space to work

Inside the front of the Learning Journal, there will be an information sheet explaining how the children can present their work. Every half term a different set of tasks will be issued. If the activities you choose are more practical, you can submit photographs of your child completing the task on Google Classroom.

## Rainbow Writing

Throughout Year 1, we use the 'Rainbow writing' technique.

This method encourages the children to see writing in different colours, which we feel is a particularly engaging approach for young children. The art of writing comes, for a young child, when they see the impact of using and combining different words and constructing sentences to create a range of effects for a reader. Through the combination of different word colours, children and teachers have a shared way of analysing writing or editing and improving sentence structure. Ultimately, we want to engage our children so they develop a 'love for writing.'

The principle is quite simple!

Orange words are joining words. For example: and, but, because, so.

Blue words are describing words (adjectives and adverbs). For example: enormous, sparkly, and stripy.

Green words are openers. For example: time words- first, next, then, after that, that evening.

Purple words are technical nouns or words chosen for effect.

Red words are verbs. For example: leap, howl, skip and screech.

We also highlight the capital letters, full stops and other punctuation in pink.

During their English lessons, I will often underline the appropriate word in the correct colour or maybe complete words/sentences with the 'rainbow effect.'

### **How can you help your child?**

If your child brings any written homework home, please encourage them to think in colour, not boring grey! I look forward to seeing Year 1 continue to be creative with their writing.

## Websites

All of your child's login details can be found at the front of their diary. Please let me know if you experience problems with logging in.

**Spelling Frame:** This year, children will be able to access their weekly spellings via Spelling Frame, which offers a range of activities and support for learning and using familiar new words. A paper list will also be sent home each week to practise.

**Education City:** Children are able to work through the activities to help consolidate your child's learning.

**RM Easimaths:** Children can access maths activities that will further embed learning taking place in school.