

Year 1 Parent/Carer Information

Welcome to Year 1!

Year 1 Staff

1TM - Mr McCabe (Year Leader), Mrs Loton & Miss Marco

1HV - Mrs Vukcevic & Mrs Nightingale

1SP - Miss Philp, Mr Dunning & Karen

Routines

Your child will need a water bottle and his/her book bag (with their reading book) at school every day. Please ensure that water bottles are filled up with water only (not juice or squash!)

A piece of fruit will be provided for each child in the morning. There will be opportunity for your child to have a second fruit snack in the afternoon, but they will need to bring this from home.

PE kits are needed for Wednesdays (indoor) and Thursdays (outdoor) but these should be kept in school all week. They will be sent home in the holidays. Please make sure your PE kit is labelled, along with the rest of your child's school uniform.

Reading

At St Michael's we place huge value on our children being able to read with confidence from an early age. The key at this age is reading regularly. Set aside a quiet time with no distractions, 10-15 minutes a day is usually long enough but if your child is enjoying a book, carry on! Reading daily will have a very positive impact in the progress your child makes in both reading and writing- the more regular, the better!

When you read with your child, please sign their yellow 'Reading Log'. We ask that the children read each book twice, as it helps build up the bank of words they recognise on sight and develops their comprehension. Once the yellow log has been signed twice, your child's book will be changed.

At the start of the term, we are having a BIG push on reading and aim to set up a program of 'Year 1 Daily Reading', following last year's success. Every afternoon for 6 weeks, each child will read to either a teaching assistant, volunteer or Year 6 pupil. If you are able to volunteer in this project then please speak to your child's class teacher!

Handwriting

The whole school is making a huge effort to teach and support children in handwriting using a 'cursive script'. Forming letters in this way leads naturally to a correct and neat 'joined up' style. Please support your child by practising correct letter formation. The more they write in the correct way, the easier it becomes.

Homework and spellings

Homework is now non-compulsory. However, at the start of each topic we will provide you with a list of suggested ideas. These activities will be linked to our topic and will provide the opportunities for wider learning.

Spellings are set and tested every Friday. Please practise these with your child. Spellings will be uploaded to the website weekly.

Topics

We will inform you of the name/theme/curriculum areas of each new topic as we start them. Because our topic-based curriculum starts off with a 'hook' to get the children excited and involved, we don't want to give away too much too soon.

We start off in the morning with a half-hour Basic Skills session at the beginning of every day. This will comprise of 20 minutes phonics session and a 10 minute maths session, focussing on mental recall of number facts. English/Literacy and maths will be taught 4 times a week, as well as a daily guided reading session.

The other subjects such as RE, PE, PSHE and music are generally taught separately to the topic work, although some topics may include these subjects (such as a dance element of a topic).

Trips

Wherever possible we will arrange outdoor learning if we feel that the children will benefit from this approach. Most of the time, we make use of the local area but sometimes we need to go further afield. We use the school minibuses to keep costs down and will try to plan trips well in advance in order to give you notice. On all trips, we will require the help of some parents in order for the trips to go ahead. Trips can now be paid for by using Wisepay through our school website.

School website

Any information you need regarding Year 1 will always be available on the school website, including our half-termly flyer, trip letters, spellings and dates for your diary! Please try to check the website regularly.

Many thanks!

Year 1 Team