

Year 1 - Squirrel Class



Autumn Term 2020-21

Dear parents and carers,

We hope that your children have enjoyed their first couple of weeks back at school! This newsletter aims to inform you of the learning and routines of Squirrel Class so that you are able to help your child settle into Year 1 and an exciting year ahead. Remember if you have any questions, please email me at squirrel@stmarys.rbksch.org

What to bring daily:

Book bags

Reading is a vital part of our learning in year 1 and we expect that children read for at least 10 minutes every night and bring their book bag in every day. We will change reading books on **Tuesdays** and you will receive 3 reading books and a shared reader. We will aim to read individually with your child once per fortnight in order to teach reading and assess their progress.



Coats and wellington boots

We continue to do a great deal of outdoor learning so the children should come to school with a coat if there is any forecast for cold weather or rain. Also, please could your child have a named pair of wellington boots to keep in our cloakroom.

Water Bottles

Please ensure that your child has a **named** water bottle to keep in the classroom in addition to their lunchtime drink. Please do not provide juice - either fresh or diluted- in your child's water bottle.

P.E.

Please ensure your child has any earrings and jewellery removed on PE days.

Continuous provision and focus children

In year one, we start our year learning in the same style as the children did in Reception-continuous provision. This means the children are able to self-select their own learning either independently or collaboratively with peers. Staff will engage with the children and help develop their learning by questioning or making suggestions.

Alongside this, we are asking the children to complete a task with an adult daily.

Each week, we will be selecting four focus children from the class. These will be children that we will closely observe while they explore and learn during our continuous provision sessions. If your child is chosen to be a focus child for the following week, we will send you a letter with more information and the opportunity to share some ideas with us so that we can plan activities to meet your child's needs.

Year 1 fund

As we are organising the class in the same style as Reception we would like to ensure we are able to offer the children a selection of resources such as ingredients for cooking, craft supplies and den building equipment. We would be grateful if you would be willing to donate £12 a term to help us cover the cost of providing these resources.

Phonics

Phonics is a crucial part of Year 1. Due to lockdown we are aware that the children missed out on their phonics learning and therefore are spending this half term recapping over phases 2 and 3 (taught in reception) before moving onto phase 4.

In the summer term there is a Year 1 Phonics Screening Test to assess your children's ability to read real and nonsense words using the sounds they have been taught. We practice daily throughout the year and our aim is for the children to enjoy the screening as a fun activity rather than view it as an assessment.

We will run a phonics workshop during the year (either remotely or in person if we can) to allow you to see the sorts of games and activities we use to develop the children's phonic knowledge.

Autumn Term Learning

Our topic themes for this term are:

"What are the seasons?"

(Seasonal changes)

- English: poetic language, performing poetry, figurative language.
Key text: Out and About by Shirley Hughes
- Maths: Number and Place Value (within 10) – comparing, counting, writing, ordering
- Science: observing seasonal changes
- Geography: Seasonal and daily weather patterns
- Art/D.T.: season tree collages; making a weather mobile
- R.E. – Who is God?
- PSHE – New Beginnings
- Music: Weather sound pictures.

"What toys did Gran play with?"

(Toys from the past)

- Literacy: How to find gold by Vivien Schwartz
- Maths: Number and Place Value (within 10) – adding, subtracting, finding the difference (within 20) – comparing, counting, writing; 2D and 3D shapes
- History: Toys from the past
- Science: Properties of Materials
- Art/D.T. – designing birthday cards; making a Christmas decoration;
- R.E. – Why do people give presents at Christmas?
- PSHE – Going for Goals

- Drama: Christmas Nativity; using drama to retell stories.

Children will also have a 30 minute Spanish lesson each week, taught by a specialist language teacher.

Please have a look at our yearly curriculum overview on our class page on the school website for more details. We will update the page with pictures and information about what we have been doing in Squirrel Class!

We hope you find the information in this newsletter useful. You are always welcome to contact us to discuss any concerns that you may have. Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Rose: Class Teacher

Mrs Joslin: Teaching Assistant

