

# ST. JOHN'S COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

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Dear Parents/Carers,

This year we will be holding an Open Classroom event on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> September from 3.15 - 4pm. You are welcome to come into school with your child to meet your child's class teacher(s) and see the classroom. This will be an opportunity to ask any questions and look at books etc. To support this we have attached an overview of some key information that we hope you will find useful.

## **Curriculum overview and main expectations**

Year 1 follow the National Curriculum for Key Stage 1 set out by the Government. This document (which can be viewed online) details the programmes of study and attainment targets for all subjects. At St. John's we plan challenges/experiences in a cross-curricular way so links are made between subjects and learning is meaningful and fun. Our topic headings for the year are:

- Wild Things (Autumn)
- The Great Fire of London (Spring)
- Pirates (Summer).

Attached to this letter are end of year expectations for English and Maths.

## **PE days and kit required**

PE is on Thursday (alternate weeks to Forest Schools) and every Friday. For the Autumn term an indoor kit is required (plimsoles, black shorts and a green St. John's PE t-shirt).

## **Homework**

All children are expected to read daily at home. This is their main homework in Year 1. The expectation is that a book will be read *three times* before it is changed. The reason for re-reading is to build up their fluency and confidence in word recognition, followed by their understanding and enjoyment of the text. There isn't a set day for changing your child's reading book so please ensure they have it every day.

Later in the year, we will give out weekly spellings appropriate to your child's ability. Sometimes, as part of a topic, they will be given one-off pieces of work to do at home.

## **Behaviour and attitudes to learning**

We endeavour to make learning in Year 1 engaging and fun. It is a place where children know they can take risks/try things out in a positive, encouraging environment. We firmly believe in the power of positive praise whilst also encouraging a growth mindset: mistakes are good – that's how we learn! Staff will look for good behaviours and attitudes

to learning, and praise, reward and encourage rather than focusing on negative behaviours and negative language. To encourage this at school:

- Children may get credits for good behaviour and these are put towards a House trophy awarded every week in assembly.
- Children will be rewarded with a special Gold Book certificate during the year from their class teacher – this may be used to encourage positive behaviour.
- A traffic light system for behaviour will be used in each class with children starting on green at the beginning of each new session.
- Teachers will enforce sanctions/consequences for disruptive behaviour in line with the school's behaviour policy which can be found on the school's website.
- We use a 'gold' circle to publicly reward effort and / or achievement above or beyond what is expected. Credits/stickers are also given out and for truly exceptional instances a special Headteacher's award.

### **School trips**

There will be a school trip each term related to the topic we are covering. Our provisional trips are Norfolk Wildlife Trust (Environmental Games, Plant Detectives and Wild Art), *Life at the time of the Great Fire of London* at Stranger's Hall and a team-building Pirate Day at Aylmerton Field Study Centre. When details have been finalised, you will be given a letter (well in advance of the trip) explaining the arrangements for the day and cost. We will ask for parent helpers for each trip and places will be allocated on a first-come basis.

### **Forest Schools**

Year 1 children will enjoy a Forest School session with Ms Howes alternate Thursdays. Please ensure they have a suitable change of clothes, waterproofs and a pair of wellies.

### **Website**

Each term, details of the topic will be posted on the Year 1 page of the school website. You will also find a curriculum document listing the subject coverage, lesson overviews and success criteria. A gallery of photos showing the children learning will be uploaded when permission has been granted from parents.

### **Spellings**

Year 1 will have spellings during the Summer Term to prepare them for Year 2.

This year we will be following a new Relationships and Sex Education curriculum for RSE. More information on this curriculum and an updated policy will be made available to you shortly. Information sessions will be available for anyone that wishes to discuss this in more detail. Please look out for information via the schools newsletter.

If you would like to help in the classroom, on a regular or ad-hoc basis, please come and see us. An extra pair of hands is always welcome. Any questions, please catch us at the end of the school day or make an appointment with the office.

Many thanks

Mrs Hands and Mrs Green