



Archbishop Runcie Church of England (VA) First School

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Headteacher: Mrs KE Massey

Welcome to Year 1 Newsletter!

3rd September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you all had an amazing summer and you're feeling refreshed and ready for a new school year. Mrs Armstrong and I are looking forward to hearing everything the children have done during their time away from school. I am feeling super excited to be teaching Year 1 again this year!

Thank you to all the parents and carers who attended the Welcome Meeting last term to meet me and hear about expectations for the year. Please find attached a copy of the PowerPoint that was shared.

Staffing

This year, Mrs Armstrong will be working in KS1 as classroom support. Mrs Armstrong worked in Reception last year so I am sure the children will all be excited to see her again!

Mrs Armstrong is our KS1 Medicines Lead and First Aider. If your child requires medicine during school, please contact her via angela.armstrong@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk. You will need to make an appointment with her before school begins to ensure medication forms are completed prior to administration.

Changes from Reception

The jump from Reception to Year 1 can be an adjustment from learning through play to a gradually more structured approach (Miss Willett began this last term) but we will do everything we can in school to make sure it is a smooth and positive transition. The children will enter school via the KS1 cloakroom door, as they were doing in the summer term last year and have access to the KS1 toilets, group room and resources. X (Twitter) and ParentMail will be your means of contact from school as there is no Tapestry use in Year 1.

Drop off and collection

As you will already know, there is a staggered drop off for children to arrive in school.

This is a staggered time from 8:35-8:45am via the KS1 cloakroom door. Children will be greeted by Mrs Armstrong on the door in morning. If you have any messages to pass on, please pass them on to her or email me. Teachers are available after 3:20pm when all children are safely dismissed.

Learning

This half term we will be focusing on settling the children into their new classroom and our Geography topic title this half term is 'Creating maps: The geography of our school, giving the children a chance to become more familiar with the whole school after moving from EYFS. During this topic, we will explore our school and the wider environment of Gosforth. To support this topic at home you could discuss the route that you take to school and identify the various features of Gosforth on your way, as well as the immediate vicinity around school (e.g. the park, the Metro line and so on). Google Earth is a brilliant tool which you could use to show the children a different perspective of Gosforth!

Music is something I am passionate about so I am particularly looking forward to our music lessons this year where we will start by learning all about the importance of pulse and rhythm in music. I hope to incorporate lots of singing into our lessons too. Everything the children are learning is also in the topic web which will be attached. Going forward, I will send a topic web each 6 week block outlining what your children will be learning.

In Science, we will be learning about animals including humans, with a focus on the different animal groups. We will be comparing animals and also looking at the types of food each animal eats. In addition to this, we will also have a continuous seasonal changes unit that we will re-visit throughout the year, looking at the differences between the seasons.

In RE, we will be learning about the creation story using the Big Frieze to help us and thinking about the question 'who do Christians say made the world?'

X (twitter) will be updated each week, so keep your eyes peeled for posts to see what we are up!

PE

PE will be taught on a Friday afternoon. Please could all children come to school in their PE kit on this day. It would be very helpful if any child with long hair (boys as well as girls) has their hair tied up on this day and that children can fasten their own shoes (e.g. only wear lace up shoes if they can fasten them themselves!). Most days, children will be completing the Active Mile as a movement break in between lessons 3 and 4. Please ensure school shoes are suitable.

Jewellery

Please can I ask that children do not wear any jewellery on any day for school. Thank you. Children wearing jewellery will be asked to remove it and bring it home. We cannot be held responsible if it goes missing.

Snacks and water

All children should bring a named water bottle each day. This will be taken home each evening to wash in preparation for the next day. In KS1, snacks are provided. These will be a range of fruit or vegetables.

Reading

Reading is the most important skill children will initially learn at First School. We will continue to use book bags to bring books in and out of school. As ever, we strongly encourage daily reading at home with an adult please. Please write a short comment in your child's reading record every night. The new Reading Records have a daily slot for comments and will be dated for each week commencing.

In Year 1, reading books will continue to be Read Write Inc books and e-books set on Oxford Owl (assigned based on the Reading Assessments) for the majority of children. Children will be asked to re-read books they have already seen before, this is important to develop understanding, fluency and pace, which are skills essential to becoming a confident reader. In addition, your child will also be sent home with a Reading for Pleasure book that can be taken from our classroom library (no comment needed). As children complete phonics, they will be moved onto Accelerated Reader where they can select their own books from the school library.

Reading for Pleasure and RWI books must be returned each week, before another is issued. This will be checked by staff. Staff will listen to children read at least once each week. Staff records of this will be held in school, not in reading records.

Last year, a few parents joined us one afternoon per week as a Reading Buddy. It would be great if anybody has a spare few hours to help listen to 1:1 readers in school. Please e-mail me if this is something you might be able to help out with! Thank you.

Statutory Tests

In Year 1, children will undertake the Phonics Screening Check in the summer term. These will be administered, 1:1, with me. There will be a parent meeting arranged closer to the time to explain what this entails.

Other belongings needed

Please could you ensure that all children's items brought into school are named? These may include: water bottles, coats, school shoes and jumpers (and anything else!). As the weather gets colder, children are welcome to bring in named hats/gloves etc in a spare bag to be stored on their peg. In the past, children have also kept an 'additional layer' e.g. school hoodie, navy fleece, body warmer on their peg in case needed.

Visits & Visitors

This year, visits out of school and visitors into school will be linked to our learning each term. We have already got some visits planned to match our RE and History learning as well as a few extras!

If you have a particular knowledge of any of our curriculum areas, we would welcome your expertise!

Homework

Homework stickers will be given out every Thursday and tasks will be stuck in the children's reading records, starting next week. These will consist of an English and Maths IXL tasks that should be completed by the following Tuesday, please. These will consolidate the learning that has taken place in class during the week. Also, spellings will be sent home on a Thursday in your child's spelling book. This follows the 'Look – Say – Cover – Write – Check' method that will be explicitly taught in school to aid children in learning their spellings, which will inevitably support their writing.

All logins can be found inside Reading Records. These may be updated during the year.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to email me at the below address.

I'm really looking forward to the year ahead. There are so many exciting units of learning, lovely books to be shared, fun activities and visits already planned!

Yours sincerely,

Miss Bowers

hettie.bowers@archbishop.newcastle.sch.uk

Autumn Term Dates		
Monday 2nd September	Staff training day – school closed to children	All day
Thursday 5th September	RWI meeting for parents and carers of Year 1 children	5:30pm
Monday 30th September	Forest School	PM
Friday 4th October	Harvest Festival at All Saints	PM

Other important dates		
WB 9th December	Multiple days/times – see school newsletter	KS1 Nativity

Please also check the newsletter for new, upcoming dates or any changes. Thank you!

Be courageous; be strong.

Do everything in love.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14