

St James the Great R C Primary School
Year 1 News Letter

5th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 1 and we hope you had a great summer! We are looking forward to working with you and your child this year.

It is important that the children read on a daily basis. They will receive a 'shared reader' book that they will read in class and at home as well as a book of their choice. The 'shared reader' will be changed every Monday and the 'choice' book will be changed once a week. Children should bring in their reading books and book bags every day. Please make sure that your child has a book bag as these ensure that our lovely school reading books do not get damaged. Please note should the books be lost or damaged a £5 fine will be charged. Children also have Home/School diaries that go home daily.

Spellings will be encouraged through shared work in class. The spellings will be a part of the class' work on phonics and the National Curriculum for English. We will give your child a list of words they should learn and then observe them in their writing and reading to see if they are learning them. A spelling test will be given to children on Monday and new spellings sent home on Tuesday.

PE will take place on **Thursday** and your child should bring a complete PE kit comprising of a white PE shirt, black plimsolls, black shorts or leggings to school on this day.

Please put your child's name on the PE Kit and also their uniform, this makes it much easier for lost items to be returned to their owners.

Homework will be given out soon with its own explanatory letter. Please spend time with your child doing their homework and reading. It is very important to help your child with their learning.

There may be times that the timetable will need to change, so please allow for this. If you have any queries concerning the above or any matters you wish to discuss, please contact one of the Year 1 staff.

Collecting your child

For the safety of your children, it is important that the Year 1 staff know that they are being collected by the correct adult. So, please be patient at the end of the day and allow the children to line up before the children are dismissed. We understand that it may be necessary for someone different from your family to collect your child at the end of the day. Please make sure you let us know by contacting the office who will let us know who is collecting your child. We are unable to allow pupils to leave the school if the adult is unknown to us.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Konwinska, Mr Johnson



Year 1 - 2025

English	This term children will be further developing their phonic skills using the 'Success For all' phonic program. 'Shared Reader' books aligned with this program will also be used in class and home to develop their reading. Children will study a range of fiction and non-fiction texts. They will work on writing full sentences and adding capital letters and full stops.
Maths	Children will count to at least 20 forwards and backwards and add and subtract to 20. They will study shape and measure length and weight. Children will discover ways of solving problems and come up with mathematical problems of their own. They will learn about money and its importance.
RE	Family and Belonging. Children will learn how God knows and loves each one of us. God is present in every beginning and we are made in His image and likeness. Children will learn that, in Baptism we become a member of God's family.
Science	Animals including Humans. Through this unit children learn about their senses and how they can use them. They also learn that humans and other animals move and grow. Experimental and investigative work focuses on: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• exploring and using senses• observing and describing living things and communicating what happened in their work. Within this unit there are opportunities for children to consider how to treat each other and other living things with care and sensitivity.
PSHE	Children will learn about the internet and how to stay safe online.
History	Changes within our living memory - toys. Children will learn about toys from the past and compare these to toys played with today. Children will learn about putting events and stories in chronological order that will link in with other subjects such as Literacy and Maths.
Art	Monochromatic In this unit children will learn about using a pencil to create lines, shapes, and values. They will develop some drawing skills that will start their primary school journey to becoming proficient as drawers. They will learn about the work of various artists and consider the different purposes that drawing can have.
Computing	Children will develop their understanding of technology and how it can help them in their everyday lives. They will start to become familiar with the different components of a computer by developing their keyboard and mouse skills.
PE	Children will work with a specialised PE coach every Thursday and explore invasion games.
Music	Children will work with the specialised music teacher every Wednesday and explore playing wooden and metal instruments.

This term, a key focus will be on developing handwriting skills. To support your child's progress, we encourage you to continue practising at home. A few helpful tips for good handwriting include: Posture: Ensure your child is sitting upright with both feet flat on the floor. Grip: Encourage a relaxed but firm pencil grip using the thumb, index, and middle fingers. Paper position: The paper should be tilted slightly, depending on whether your child is right- or left-handed. Letter formation: Remind your child to form letters from top to bottom and left to right. Spacing: Encourage leaving equal spaces between words for clarity. Slow and steady: Quality is more important than speed—neatness will improve with practice. Your support at home makes a big difference, and we appreciate your partnership in helping children develop clear, confident handwriting.