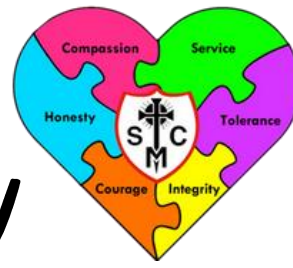


# Year 1 Newsletter



## Welcome Back!

Welcome to a new school year! We hope you've had a wonderful summer break and the children are ready for an exciting year ahead. We have lots of wonderful opportunities for the year ahead. To find out more about this term's units, please see the Year 1 learning overview.

Miss Cartledge  
Miss McCall Miss Wilson

## Timetable

**MONDAYS – Spelling test**

**TUESDAYS – PE Day. Children to come to school in full PE kits**

**THURSDAYS – PE Day. Children to come to school in full PE kits**

**FRIDAYS – Reading books will be changed – please ensure your child takes their book to school and puts it in the reading book box**

## Reading at home

Reading at home is one of the best ways to help your child grow their vocabulary and improve their overall reading skills. Just 15 minutes of reading each night can make a big difference. When children read regularly, they learn new words in context, which helps them remember and use those words in their own writing. It also improves their understanding of what they read, making schoolwork easier. Unfortunately, more screen time and less reading have had a negative impact on children's reading habits. Many children are now reading more slowly and with less understanding. By setting aside time to read each night, you can help your child build strong reading habits that support their success in school and beyond.

Reading is extremely important in Year 1. We will have a phonics session every day in school to develop our phonetic knowledge to improve our reading and writing. Please read with your child as much as possible. Encourage them to decode (break the word down) and blend (squash it back together) words that they are unsure of. After reading, talk about the books that they have read. This will help to develop comprehension skills. Your child will get a phonics reading book and a library book. They will also have access to online books.

Phonics reading book – Please allow your child to read this book to you. Record these reads in their reading diary. We expect these books to be in school everyday and they will be changed on Fridays.

Online phonics book – These books are assigned through the Big Cat Collins system. You will receive an additional letter with log in details and instructions once your child is set up.

Library book – Your child will also be able to choose a book from our class library which they will also change on a Friday. This is likely to be a story for you to read and enjoy with your child.



## Homework

**Reading** – Your child needs to read their Phonics book to you at least 3 times each week and these reads need to be recorded in their reading diary. Additional books will be assigned to their Collins account. Log in details for this will be found in their reading diaries when they are ready to use.

**Spellings** – a list of spellings will be given out each week and will also be put onto the Class Dojo Page. Please practice these with your child. These will be tested on Mondays.

**Numbots** – Numbots is a brilliant way to improve number fluency and rapid recall in Maths. Log in details for this will be found in their reading diaries when they are ready to use.



## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

### **Victorian Christmas at Newstead Abbey**

Our children will be travelling by coach to Newstead Abbey to experience what life was like for children in the Victorian era. We encourage the children to dress as a Victorian child for the day to fully immerse in the experience. Please check your emails with further details including payment information.

We are always looking for volunteers to assist with classroom activities and special events. If you're available and interested in helping out, please let me know. Your involvement is greatly appreciated!



## Morning Snacks

Please ensure your child has a water bottle each day which is clearly labelled. We do ask that only water is provided. This helps keep them energized and hydrated throughout their busy day.

In Year 1, fruit is provided free of charge and they will be offered a piece during morning break. You are welcome to send them in with an additional snack if they need it, but we kindly ask that it is a healthy snack. Biscuits are provided to those children who have signed up at the office. If your child is not on the list, please speak to a member of the office team. Milk can also be purchased for your child. Please speak with the office team if you need help with setting this up.

## Important Reminders

Please label all items of clothing and check these often to ensure the names haven't been washed out. It is very difficult to return missing items to children without a name in them. At SMC, we expect children to be in full uniform/PE kit. Please ask a member of staff if you are unsure of the school's expectations. If you feel your child may need a change of clothes, please ensure they are in their bag each day. We do recommend sending a spare plastic bag for any wet clothes to be returned home.

If your child has any medical needs, not already known to the school, please do come in to discuss these.

Our school day begins at 8:40am when the gates open and ends at 3:15pm. The children enter and leave school by the gate closest to Year 1. Please be patient with us at collection as we familiarize ourselves with new faces.

