

St Andrew's C E Primary School
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4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you have had a restful and enjoyable summer break. We are very excited to welcome your children to our Year 1 class and are looking forward to getting to know you all.

We get to learn and explore lots of exciting things in Year 1 and will begin our year with the topic: 'St Andrew's and Me!' Your child will get to know our new classroom and routines for Year 1, and as part of this Geography topic, will learn about maps -exploring how to use them in our classroom, school, and town. Please see the Year 1 Topic Web for details of all curriculum areas this term. It also contains vocabulary that we will be using in class. We would encourage children who speak additional languages to talk about the topic and the vocabulary in their home language too, as this is proven to be helpful with understanding in class.

Mrs Loveday teaches Year 1 Monday to Thursday with Mrs Band teaching each Friday. Our Teaching Assistants, Mrs Byles and Mr Jarvis, will be supporting our class every day.

P.E. and Library days

Our P.E. day is Friday when the children will have indoor P.E. Please ensure your child has their full P.E. kit (plain blue or black shorts or PE trousers/leggings and a plain blue or white t-shirt). This should be in school all week and may be left on their peg for the term. (It is also helpful as a spare change of clothes). In the summer term children will also require outdoor PE shoes.

The children will visit the school library each Thursday afternoon; please can they have their library book in their book bag on a Thursday. Children can also return their book any day to our class library box and then visit the library that lunchtime to get a new one.

Homework

All homework will be posted on ClassDojo each Friday.

A specific maths activity will usually be set on Doodle Maths that relates to learning from that week. However, we love it when the children also complete the '5 a day' doodle maths activities to consolidate learning. Please let us know if your child has any problem with their log in details once they are handed out. (We will notify you via Class Dojo regarding login details once we have had the opportunity to show children how it works in school).

On a Friday children will receive one reading book at their reading level to share with you and a phonics 'book bag book' linked directly to their phonics lessons to read to you. This phonics book will be at a level that will help your child practice the sounds they know. They are very costly to replace therefore we meticulously check them out each Friday and check them back in each Wednesday. Any lost or damaged books will need to be replaced as we cannot effectively run our scheme without these books. Please could all reading books be in book bags every day so that our volunteer readers can hear your child read. Thank you.

Daily reading with your child is highly recommended and makes a big difference to your child's progress and books can be read more than once; a second or third read will help children build fluency, stamina and comprehension once they have predominantly decoded on the first read. Your child will be given a new Reading Record for you to fill in.

Punctuality and Attendance

Doors open at 8.40 am. Children put away their things and settle in, ready for the day. The register is taken at 8.50 am. If you arrive in school after the register has been taken, you will need to take your child to the school office to register them. Once your child is through the gate of the year 1 area it is not expected that you stay. Please do not come to wave at the door at the end of the KS1 corridor as this can be unsettling for many children.

Dates

Friday 18th September	SASA International Evening (A fun evening for all! It is lovely if you can bring a dish of food to share).
Monday 21st September	Clubs start - these will run for 5 weeks before half term and 5 weeks after half term.
Tuesday 6th October	Harvest Festival at St Andrew's Church (10.30am)
Tuesday 13th October	Parent teacher meetings
Wednesday 14th October	Parent teacher meetings
Monday 19th - Thursday 22nd October	Deep Learning week
Friday 23rd October	INSET Day - no children in school
Monday 26th - Friday 30th October	Half Term break (Children return to school on Monday 2 nd November).

Communication

If you have an urgent message regarding your child, please phone the school office as we cannot always check our messages during the school day. If you have a non-urgent message, please feel free to use ClassDojo and we will endeavour to reply as soon as possible. Please keep an eye on

ClassDojo for any upcoming dates or events. It is easier for us to chat or answer questions after school than in the morning when we are trying to ensure all children have a settled start to the day and feel welcomed by us.

How you can get involved

In Year 1 we have a junk modelling station as part of our Continuous Provision. We are always grateful for donations of 'junk' - clean cardboard, boxes, tubes, plastics - for children to reimagine into something new! (Please be mindful of what these are though- e.g. there is a certain toilet roll brand who have inappropriate language printed on their rolls and we would not wish to share this with children.)

We are always looking for scrap paper - if you have scrap paper or leftover paper or card or envelopes that are blank on at least one side and could be used by children, we would be grateful for it. (Again, please be aware of appropriateness of anything printed on paper and of GDPR.)

If you read our topic web and think you have a related specific skill or knowledge-set that could enrich the curriculum for our Year 1 children, then do let us know via Class Dojo and we can look into arranging a visit from you to our classroom.

Best wishes,

Mrs Loveday and Mrs Band