



Year 1 Owl Class Parent information **September 2024**

'Creating a community where we learn by, Respect, Kindness, Curiosity and Faith'

Welcome to Year 1 Owl Class

Class Teacher – Mrs N Barrow

Transition – Transition between foundation (early years) and Key stage one is a big step. For the first half term of Y1 the children will have daily lessons in Phonics, Reading, Writing and Mathematics in the mornings. In the afternoons we offer the children a range of activities linked to the Y1 curriculum. They have the opportunity to choose activities (busy time), take part in PE, art and craft, music, RE, computing and outdoor activities. We also have the advantage of the Y1 outdoor classroom (The Barn) We introduce a different topic each half term to cover History and Geography. RE is taught weekly following the RE Discovery scheme of work. After Autumn half term the children have more structured lessons in the afternoons which are topic based.

Y1 Curriculum – The Key Stage 1 curriculum is broad, balanced and creative. Over Years 1 and 2 the children will experience a range of activities giving them the experiences, knowledge and skills they need to move on into Key Stage 2.

Phonics – All children in Reception and KS1 take part in daily phonics sessions. At St. Michaels we follow the Read, Write, Inc. Comprehensive Phonics Programme (RWI) At the end of Y1 the children complete a National phonics screening assessment. The phonics screening check is designed to confirm whether pupils have learnt phonic decoding to an appropriate standard. It will identify pupils who need extra help to improve their decoding skills.

Reading – Children in Year 1 read on a daily basis. They take part in 1-1 Reading, Guided reading sessions and whole class reading. Daily RWI sessions also include reading. It is very important that children read a range of texts and fully understand what they read. Rushing through reading levels is of no benefit to children when they struggle to understand what they are reading. The children will be assessed termly to ensure they are reading the correct level of book.

Writing – Children in Year one start daily writing tasks which often link to a class text. We encourage the children to use their phonic knowledge to sound out and write words/sentences. By the end of Year 1 the children should be able to write simple sentences independently using their own ideas. Basic grammar, spellings and punctuation are also covered in English writing lessons. Handwriting and presentation of work is gradually introduced as children gain confidence in their abilities.

White Rose Mathematics – In Key Stage one we follow the White Rose Mathematics scheme.

When teaching maths, the whole class moves through topics at broadly the same pace. Each topic is studied in depth and the teacher does not move to the next stage until all children demonstrate that they have a secure understanding of mathematical concepts. **TIME TO THINK DEEPLY ABOUT THE MATHS** - Students are given time to think deeply about the maths and really understand concepts at a relational level rather than as a set of rules or procedures. This slower pace leads to greater progress because it ensures that students are secure in their understanding and teachers don't need to revisit topics once they've been covered in depth. **BUILDS SELF-CONFIDENCE IN LEARNERS** - In a traditional primary school maths lesson, children are put in different groups and given different content based on their anticipated ability. This means that from an early age children are classed as those who can and can't "do maths". Teaching maths through the White Rose scheme is different because it offers all pupils access to the full maths curriculum. This inclusive approach, and its emphasis on promoting multiple methods of solving a problem, builds self-confidence and resilience in pupils. **DIFFERENTIATES THROUGH DEPTH RATHER THAN ACCELERATION** - Though the whole class goes through the same content at the same pace, there is still plenty of opportunity for differentiation. Unlike the old model, where advanced learners are accelerated through new content, those pupils who grasp concepts quickly are challenged with rich and sophisticated problems within the topic. Those children who are not sufficiently fluent are provided additional support to consolidate their understanding before moving on.

Maths meetings – Alongside the White Rose scheme the children have daily Maths Meetings where they have the opportunity to learn and practice basic Mathematical concepts such as counting, place value, calendar Maths, money, time, shape & measure. Children in Year one really enjoy their daily Maths Meetings.

School website – Class page.

Please keep an eye on the class page. The Y1 curriculum is clearly displayed plus other useful class information such as homework, notices and updates. Termly learning will be added on a regular basis. Class photos will also be added to the school Facebook account.

Uniform – It is very important for the children to be wearing the correct school uniform.

Please clearly label all items of school uniform.

Morning snacks/water bottles – Children can bring a healthy snack to school for morning break. NOTHING THAT CONTAINS NUTS PLEASE! Fruit is provided daily.

Lunches – The children are familiar with the lunch time routine. Menus are sent home on a regular basis. Please discuss daily choices with your child.

PE – Year 1 PE days are **Thursdays and Fridays**. Children can wear their PE kits to school on these days.

Homework – Reading – Please read on a regular basis with your child at home and sign their reading record book. Children may choose to read other books from home, please also record this in their record book. Reading should be an enjoyable experience for both parents and children. If your child is tired and refuses to read, please don't worry, just make a note in the record book. School days are very busy!

Spellings – Spellings and phonic sheets will be sent home on Thursdays. Spellings will link to the phonic sounds children are learning in school. Children take part in spelling quizzes each Friday. The spelling and phonic sheets can be kept at home and don't need to be returned to school.

Consolidation tasks Maths/English/Topic/Science – Occasionally tasks will be sent home on Thursdays to be returned by the following Wednesday. Homework will always be related to what the children have been learning in class. Children may need a little support with some of the set tasks.

Brain Builders – Half termly (history/geography/science link)

Brain builder tasks will be sent home each half term with separate information.

We want the children to always feel happy and secure in school and have 'Fun in Year 1'.

If you have any concerns about your child, please speak with Mrs Barrow.

Thank you.

