



# Year 1/2 Newsletter

## Autumn 1 2017

Year 1 – Mars Class  
Year 1/2 – Jupiter Class  
Year 1/2 – Neptune Class

Ensuring



Providing



Fostering



### Welcome to Key Stage 1

Welcome to our first newsletter of this academic year. We hope you all had an enjoyable summer break and have had lots of fun times with your family and friends.

You will be pleased to know that the children are settling well into their new classes and have adapted well to their new classrooms, new staff, new friends and routines.

This newsletter will hopefully provide you with some key information about KS1 but please do not hesitate to speak to a member of staff should you have further questions.

There is some information about the topics/themes that KS1 will be covering this term in the box below. Our first topic is called 'Time Travellers', where we will be exploring life in Victorian Times.

#### KS1 Topics/Themes—Autumn term 2016 - 2017



Time Travellers  
Fire Safety  
Victorian Christmas  
Nativity



Christmas Arts and Crafts

We will send home curriculum information topic flyers for each topic so that you are informed of your child's learning.

#### Important dates for your diary

Rainbow Theatre Victorian Workshop - Fri 22 Sep pm - you should have received a letter already  
Victorian School Day am - Family Learning Event pm - Tues 10 Oct - details to follow  
Open Morning -11 October am



#### KS1 PE days/information

All classes - Monday and Wednesday. PE is a compulsory subject therefore all children must have their PE kits in school ready for lessons. Outdoor PE kit will also be required please and don't forget to name all clothing too.

The children are looking very smart in their uniforms, thank you. Just a few reminders.

#### Earrings

Staff cannot remove children's earrings for PE lessons, so if your child cannot remove their own earrings, please ensure they are not worn on PE days (Monday and Wednesday). In the case of newly pierced ears, the earrings will need to be covered by tape for 6 weeks please.

#### Hair accessories

A reminder that hair accessories should be simple and plain and reflect the school colours, i.e. navy or white.

#### KS1 Blog - [stmsks1.wordpress.com](http://stmsks1.wordpress.com)

Please remember to keep up with the 'goings on' in our classrooms by visiting our blog and posting a comment.



#### Surgery Day

Each morning, class teachers will be out on the playground to meet the children and bring them in. Please come and speak to us if you have anything you think we need to know or have any worries. If you need to speak to us for longer than just a quick word, please make an appointment with the appropriate teacher. Our surgery day is on a Tuesday.



In our first Newsletter we thought parents may appreciate some information about homework tasks and expectations in KS1. Please note that spellings and number facts will be phased in after October half term for Mars Class.

### Reading



Your child should have come home with their home reading book and home reading log. In the home reading log, we would like you to record each time you read or share books with your child. Please take time to look on the back of the reading log as there is some very useful information and questions based on our new reading dog characters. Ensuring that your child understands, can retell and talk about the book is as important as being able to read the words.

We encourage you to read with your child as frequently as you can. It makes a huge difference to their confidence and success in reading and also other subjects. Our school readership award scheme also encourages your child to read and share books at home on at least four days of the week.

Book changing days are as follows - Tuesday and Friday. Each Friday we will use the reading log to determine how many days your child has read or shared books, and reward their success by entering your child's name into a readership raffle to possibly win a prize.

### Reading Flashcards - High Frequency and Common Exception Words



Children will have reading flashcards sent home as required. Please spend a little time every day helping your child develop their sight word recognition. If you need any ideas on how to do this please see your child's class teacher.

### Spellings

Spellings for Jupiter and Neptune Class will begin within the next few weeks. Up to ten words, linked to their weekly phonics/spellings lessons, will be sent home for your child to practise spelling. Children will be tested on these weekly, usually on a Friday.



### Quick-fire Maths and Number Facts

Quick-fire maths packs or number fact packs, at an appropriate level for your child, will also be sent home shortly. For Quick-fire maths you will receive some skills activities to play at home and a Quick-fire log. When you think your child is confident with their targets please sign their record card, hand it to the teacher and we will test them in school and move them to the next level as appropriate. Regular practice of Quick-fire maths and number facts improves your child's mental maths skills, and supports them to work confidently with numbers and calculations.

### Learning and Enquiry Topic Homework

For most topics we will send out a flyer explaining our Learning and Enquiry homework tasks. Many of the tasks will allow your child (and you!) to be as creative as possible. All homework will be proudly displayed in our classrooms or shared area.



### Religious Education



Our RE topics for the first half of the Autumn term are Creation and Prayer, Saints and Feasts. In Creation we will develop children's appreciation of themselves and the world around them as part of God's creation and help them to recognise how they can help protect what God has created. In Prayers, Saints and Feasts we will develop the children's understanding of prayer and why the Church has saints.

### Parent helper plea

We are always very grateful to the parents and grandparents who help out in school with activities such as hearing children read. If you are interested in becoming a parent helper please speak to a teacher.

**Thank you to all our parents, carers and volunteers  
for your continued support.**

*Thank you!*