



Autumn Term 2023 Newsletter

Saffron and Tangerine Classes

Welcome to Year 1

The children have settled into their new Year 1 classes beautifully and have engaged in a range of exciting activities related to this term's topics.

Curriculum

We have got a busy term ahead! Please see the Topic Map for information detailing this term's curriculum and if you have any questions, please ask any member of staff in the Year 1 Team.

Home Learning

Phonics is a huge part of your child's learning in Year 1 so please support your child by practising their phonic sounds and corresponding letters through writing their name, writing words and sentences, creating stories or even writing this week's shopping list.

It is important that your child develops a love for reading, as this early engagement will support your child with their fluency, expression and understanding of what they are reading. We eagerly encourage you to read to your child but also listen to them read their decodable phonics book on a daily basis. Every Friday, a reading record will be sent home with a new decodable phonics book at their level as well as a library book for you to read to them. We encourage you to ask questions, to build on their comprehension and also write a brief comment on their reading in the reading record to give us a record of their progress and achievements.

In Maths, you could help your child's counting skills by counting objects to 20, writing and ordering the numbers to 20 (in numerals and words) and learning their number bonds to 10.

Specialist Teachers

Your child's specialist PE and Art sessions will happen every Thursday. Please make sure children come into school wearing their PE kit. This consists of a plain house coloured t-shirt, black shorts or leggings/tracksuit bottoms and black trainers. In the winter please ensure they have a fleece or sweatshirt.

Children will also have a specialist music lesson every Wednesday.

Punctuality & Attendance

It continues to be really important that children arrive and are collected promptly.

START OF THE DAY: 9am

END OF THE DAY: 3:30pm

Attendance is compulsory for all children. Regular contact and communication to our office about illness, medical appointments and absence is crucial.

Please contact the school office if you have any questions:

Office: 020 8340 4898

Email: office@stmarysn8.co.uk

Trips

We are excited to take the children on lots of amazing trips this year. This term we will be visiting: Freightliners Farm. Please look out for a letter with further information.

General Reminders

- **PLEASE NAME** all sweaters, coats, gloves, hats, plimsolls, water bottles etc.
PE Kit - children to wear their correct PE kit to school - this is a plain house coloured t-shirt, black shorts or leggings/tracksuit bottoms and black trainers. Fleece/sweatshirt for the winter.
- Please ensure that your child reads every day and do ask them about **what** they have read. The most important thing is that this is an enjoyable and valuable experience, which will further support your child to develop a love of reading.
- Children are given a healthy snack at morning play time, however, if you want to send in your own please do. Also, we recommend you send in a labelled bottle of water.
- We would like to remind parents that the school has a no jewellery policy, and earrings should be studs only, please. Nail polish is not allowed.
- If your child has long hair, please make sure it is tied back.
- Please also ensure that your child wears **black shoes** to school. If trainers, these must be completely black with no bright logos, flashing details or coloured laces/soles.
- Please send a named water bottle into school daily.
- We are a strictly nut-free school; please remember this for packed lunches and party/birthday treats.
- We are strictly a latex-free school, i.e. no latex materials including balloons, rubber bands, latex gloves etc.
- Please keep up to date with news on our website [here](#)

Key Dates

Please look out for the main newsletters as well as emails/text messages from the Admin Team.

- Wednesday 4th October: Harvest Festival Assembly @ 9.30am
- Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October: Half term – school closed
- Monday 30th October: INSET day – school closed to children
- Tuesday 31st October: Children return to school

*You can find the above dates and more on our calendar [here](#)

If there is anything that you would like to talk to us about, please feel free to talk to us after school, or make an appointment via the school office.

Ms Harris and Mrs Smith
Year 1 Team