



# St. Alphege C. E. Infant School

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF SOLIHULL

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## Year One Newsletter

September 2019

Dear Parents and Children,

Welcome back to school. We hope you have all enjoyed your summer break. To make things easier for next half term and the year ahead we thought it would be helpful for you to have this letter outlining many of the housekeeping problems that may arise over the coming months. Indeed many of you have asked for details of when the homework and reading books have to be returned to school.

### Pump Bags

Pump bags need to remain in school with your child's indoor and outdoor P.E kit as these items may be required on any day of the week. The bags are sent home half termly, when there is an opportunity to wash the kit and check the pumps are appropriately sized.

### Art

Please ensure an art apron/smock or an old shirt is kept in school (in their pump bag is ideal) for your child to wear during any potentially messy art and craft activity. It must be clearly labelled.

### Library

Your child will have the opportunity to visit the library and borrow a book each week providing their previous book has been returned. Please ensure your child has a clearly labelled library folder and brings this into school on the following day:

Swan Class – Wednesday

Robin Class – Tuesday

Kingfisher Class – Friday

### Reading Books

Reading books come home every night and first reading books will be sent home on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September. The books and bags need to be brought into school every day **regardless of whether or not your child has completed the reading book or indeed had time to read it** (*we appreciate that this does occasionally happen*). The idea of frequently sending your child's book home is for him/ her to frequently practise the skills taught at school. Regular practise will enhance your child's reading ability and help to develop a love of reading. So please "little and often" is all we ask. It is not necessary to rush your child through the reading scheme and can indeed, be unhelpful to your child's success. Books will

be changed, providing they have been completed, on **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays** by a member of staff.

In learning to read your child will come across various different text types, some non-fiction, some poetry, some shorter, some longer, some easier than others, but all part of a wide comprehensive continuum, enabling your child to develop the various skills required in becoming a fluent reader.

As a staff we are very appreciative of your support and know, through regular practice and written comments in the reading record books that your child will develop into a confident, independent reader who has a love of reading and appreciates its value. You will be surprised how quickly your child's reading will improve with gentle support and guidance. Your child will read in school to an appropriate member of staff at least once each week, so please ensure books are in school **every** day.

Remember all children are individuals and progress at individual rates. Some come across problems at different points during their reading development and this is where regular practice, support and dialogue between home and school is essential to ensure a continued and happy journey.

### **Homework**

Please see attached 'Homework Guidance' for Maths workbook.

### **Additional home learning**

From time to time your child may find a particular subject area more challenging and need a little extra support. Occasionally, we may ask for some additional support from you via a note in your child's book bag. We recognise family life can be busy and children are often tired after a long day at school, however a quick 5-10 minutes consolidating a specific area of learning can make all the difference in the following day's lesson.

### **Voluntary Assistance**

May we take this opportunity to ask if there are any parents that would like to volunteer to help the Year 1 team, please see your class teacher to arrange for a DBS check to be completed if not already done so. Classes would benefit from both regular classroom support and occasional help with class trips. You are welcome to volunteer in both your child's own class or another Year 1 class.

In particular we are looking forward to two upcoming trips this half term and seek parental support to do this on the following dates. Please contact your child's class teacher if you are able to assist.

<b>Autumn Walk</b>	<b>Visit to Solihull High Street</b>
Swan – Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Swan – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> October
Kingfisher - Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Kingfisher – Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October
Robin - Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Robin - Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> October

We look forward to an exciting year ahead!

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Costello, Mrs Holloway, Miss Taylor, Miss Hicks  
The Year 1 Team