



**The Federation of  
St. Alphege Church of England Infant and  
Nursery School and  
St. Alphege Church of England Junior  
School**



Christian School Values: Love, Honesty, Cooperation, Responsibility, Forgiveness and Valuing Difference.

## Year One Newsletter

September 2020

Dear Parents and Children,

We are very excited to welcome you back to school. We hope you have all enjoyed your summer break in spite of these unusual times. A few things may have changed since your child was last in school and in their Reception class and so to make things easier for next half term we thought it would be helpful to outline many of the housekeeping problems that may arise over the coming months.

### **Pump Bags**

We will continue to do P.E. regularly and kindly ask for children's pump bags 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**

Unfortunately we will not be issuing library books yet although hope to do so in due course. We will send out further information if/when available.

### **Reading Books**

Your child's first reading book will be sent home on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September based upon where in the reading scheme your child was on when they were previously in school. We recognise some children may have been away from school for some time and may have progressed further with their reading. Please can we kindly ask that you bear with us whilst we take the

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Executive Head Teacher:  
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Chair of Governors:  
Mrs. P. Price

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time to reassess where the children are in their reading and ensure a suitable stage book is given.

Due to hygiene restrictions we need to allow all books that are returned to be 'quarantined' for 72 hours before going back into circulation. Therefore, we will only be issuing new reading books on a **Monday** and **Thursday**.

**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) as a member of staff may listen to your child read on any day of the week.

Regular practise of reading at home 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. 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.

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**

Weekly homework will be issued each Friday linked to the learning that has taken place in school. Completed homework can be collated into a homework folder to be kept at home. We will then ask for these to be sent into school on a half termly basis to be marked.

In addition we will be sending out individual logs ons for children to access Spelling Shed. This is a great online tool to practise the spelling of the Year 1 Common Exception words and topic vocabulary. New spelling lists will be uploaded every fortnight for children to regularly practise at home. We encourage a 'little and often' approach to help children embed these spellings in preparation for weekly dictation. The focus is for children to be able to spell these words independently in the context of sentence work.

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**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**

Unfortunately, at this time we have a 'no visitor' policy in school and will not be seeking assistance in the classroom for the time being.

We look forward to an exciting year ahead!

Yours sincerely,

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

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