



**ST. LEO'S AND SOUTHMEAD
CATHOLIC PRIMARY
SCHOOL**
SERVING THE COMMUNITY
LICKERS LANE
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"Wisdom is Learning Together"
"Love of All"



September 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome to Year 1!

My name is Mrs Pimblett, I'm your child's class teacher and Mrs Lyon is Year 1's Teaching Assistant. We hope you have all had a lovely summer holiday and are excited at the prospect of your child starting Year 1.

This letter is to provide you with information about the coming school year and to give you an idea about the forthcoming lessons and topics.

**There is also a Year One Intake Meeting on
Wednesday 27TH September 2.30pm for additional information**

Attendance

We celebrate attendance with rewards and prizes every Monday in assembly.

We strive at St. Leo's and Southmead for every child to be happy and that their voice is heard. Help and support is available within school if you feel there are any difficulties in your child attending regularly.

It is so important that your child attends school every day unless they are sick. If your child is sick, you must call on the day between 8.30 and

9.30am or write a letter upon your child's return, explaining the reason for absence.

Punctuality

Please make sure that your child arrives to school on time and comes straight into class at 8.55am prompt. Reading, spelling activities, numeracy tasks and attendance assemblies begin the minute your child sets foot into the classroom at 8.55 am. The door will be open from 8.45am.

Uniform

Please ensure your child has the correct uniform and **has their name in everything including their coat**. Children need to wear plain black shoes at all times. Their school uniform is a reflection on the class, especially when we are out of school or when we have visitors into the classroom.

P.E.

P.E. is a compulsory lesson just like Literacy and Numeracy and your child must take part. Your child's P.E. lessons are on a Tuesday and will start from Tuesday 12th September. Please make sure your child has a full PE kit brought in a small drawstring PE bag clearly labelled (black shorts, white T-shirt and Velcro/pull on pumps - **with their name on everything**). Please make sure your child is able to independently put on their shoes, especially if your child has lace up shoes. If they are unable to tie shoelaces please buy velcro fastening shoes. We understand the expense of growing children's feet but it is for their own safety that they are wearing the correct size for their feet. PE kits can be kept in school every day and sent home at the end of each half term to be washed.

Dates For Your Diary

Dates for the coming school years Theme Weeks, World Book Day and dressing up days are provided every year in September, in Newsletters, Welcome Letters and on the school website. Please make a note in your diary, as plenty of notice is provided for your child to take part in these days without the last minute rush or stress of finding a costume.

Website

Year One have their own page on the website. This has information updated termly about what your child is learning and a copy of this welcome letter. There is also additional information about how you can help your child, useful resources, Phonic Screening information and pictures from class topics giving you an insight to what your child is doing

in school on a weekly basis. A copy of the School Newsletters can also be found on the school website.

Spellings

Your child will be sent home every week with a personalised list of spellings. Often the same word will appear a number of times during the term. This is to reinforce their learning. Your child will have a spelling test every Friday therefore your child has plenty of time to learn their spellings. If possible spend some time helping your child to learn their spellings as this has a real impact on the standard of your child's writing in class!!!.

Weekly Reading Books

We now have a phonic screening reading test for all children at the end of year one. We cannot stress the importance of your child taking home a reading book and returning every week to be changed!! The children who consistently read every week at home are by far the most successful readers in class and always gain the highest levels!! Please do not assume if your child is an able reader they do not need to practise at home, as it has been proven that the fluent readers struggle the most with the Phonic Screening at the end of Year One. We will also provide a reading pack for every child that will help and enhance reading at home, with handy tips and useful prompts to support your child's learning. If at any time during the year you need additional help supporting your child please let me know.

Assessment and Tests

Assessments will be carried out discreetly throughout the school year and especially at the end of every half term, therefore attendance has an impact on your child's progress.

Homework

We offer your child homework to reinforce their learning of class subjects. There will be a termly overview of each subject topics during the term, with helpful hints and ways you can support your child learning at home (see website for helpful hints). We have weekly reading books, spellings, phonic practise and maths. We think homework can be really valuable and does have an impact.

Toast

The children in year one do not have snack now but have the opportunity to buy toast instead. This is paid on a weekly basis on a **Monday** morning. £1 a week for 2 slices per day or 50p per week for 1 slice per day. The children still have milk and fruit everyday.

Money and Messages

Please ensure that all money is put in envelopes marked with your child's name and what the money is for. Please do not hand me money at the door as it can become very confusing who has given me what and what for. Can you also write any messages in a letter as at 8.55 my teaching starts and I am unable to talk at the door and verbal messages can often be forgotten.

Book Club

Mrs Parry will be continuing Book Club on Tuesdays and has now sold over 7,000 books to our school children. This is a great opportunity for your children to become interested in books and life long readers!!

Water

It has been scientifically proven that children having constant access to water helps improve their learning. Therefore please can you provide your child with a water bottle that needs refilling at home everyday. Please do not send in juice or flavoured water as it ruins tables, carpets, floors and children's books . Warm water can be refilled throughout the day on the children's request!!

We're really looking forward to teaching your child this year and we are sure your child will enjoy their time in their new classroom.

Thank you

Mrs Pimblett and Mrs Lyon

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY - see attachment.

