



**ST. LEO'S AND SOUTHMEAD  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY  
SCHOOL  
SERVING THE COMMUNITY  
LICKERS LANE  
WHISTON  
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*'A place to allow everyone to flourish'*

September 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

### **Welcome to Year 1**

My name is Mrs Pimblett, I'm your child's class teacher and Mrs Bennett is our teaching assistant. We hope you have all ok 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

#### **Attendance**

We celebrate attendance with rewards, dojo and prizes every term.

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 or Dojo on the day between 8.30 and 9am and write a letter upon your child's return, explaining the reason for absence.

## Punctuality

Slightly staggered start times will be in place *temporarily*. It will be very important that parents (one per family) support us with this - pupils cannot be late or they will disrupt someone else's safe slot.

Please make sure that your child arrives to school on time and comes straight into the playground designated area for line up at 8.45am prompt. Children are to be taken to the infant playground and to wait with parents on their allocated side. Please do not let your child run around or touch play equipment on the yard. Parents are expected to socially distance with their child next to them, until a member of staff collects all children...parents should then immediately leave the premises or go to their next drop-off point if they have more than one child.

## Uniform

Please ensure your child has the correct uniform with tie and has their name in everything including their coat, water bottles, lunchboxes etc. Children need to wear plain black shoes at all times.

## School Bags

We have very limited space for coats and lunchboxes. Please can you **not** send children in with school with bags/rucksacks for snack and water bottles as 30 bags takes up most of the coat rack. Water bottles are to be carried into class and kept under their tables.

## P.E.

P.E. is a compulsory lesson just like Literacy and Numeracy and your child must take part. Your child's P.E. lesson is on a Monday.

PE Kit- children will need to have a FULL PE kit and come to school wearing it on the day that they have PE. They can wear track suit bottoms (black or dark grey) with their PE top and school jumper on the colder days!

## 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.

### Class Dojo

We use Class Dojo to communicate reminders and additional information for you, regarding what is happening in Year One. Please log in to receive updates on the Dojo points your child is rewarded. Messages will be replied to before and after school within 24hrs. If your message needs an urgent reply during the day please do not communicate this on Dojo but by a phone call to school.

### Spellings

Your child will receive every week a personalised list of spellings and timetables on Dojo. 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. Timetables homework in Year 1 starts with addition and doubling, traditional timetables will appear later in the year.

### 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 it 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 its been proven that the fluent readers struggle the most with the Phonic Screening at the end of Year One. If at any time during the year you need additional help supporting your child please let me know. **Reading books are given on a Friday and returned no later than Tuesday this will allow us adequate time to quarantine the bags/books for safe use by others** Bags/Books returned later will not be changed.

### 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

### **Breakfast**

The children in year one do not have paid snack now but have the opportunity to have free bagels, fruit and milk daily.

### **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 or dojo as at 8.55 my teaching starts and I am unable to talk at the door and verbal messages can often be forgotten.

### **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!!

### **Birthday cakes and Invites**

Please can you distribute invites yourself and not send them in to school. Birthday treats must be individual cupcakes or wrapped/ packet sweets etc. Please do not send in cakes to be cut in school.

Further detailed information and procedures concerning covid have already been sent to you in the Parents September Booklet

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 Bennett