

Dear Parents and Carers of our Year 1 children,

A very warm welcome to Year 1 at St Christopher's Academy! We hope that you and your child are looking forward to the exciting new school year ahead. We understand that transitions, especially moving from Reception to Year 1, can feel a little unsettling, particularly for parents. Just like in Reception, in the second week of school we will have 'Meet the Teacher' sessions, which are a chance for you to come into the classroom, see the environment, learn more about Year 1 and ask any questions. Information about these will come in the first newsletter of the school year.

Please know that we're here to support you every step of the way. We hope you find the information in this letter useful and we want to reassure you that your child is in safe hands. Our experienced team is committed to ensuring that every child feels happy, secure, and ready to thrive as they take this next important step!

### What's Staying the Same?

- **Phonics and Reading Foundations**  
We continue using the highly successful Little Wandle phonics programme. Children will bring home a phonics-aligned reading book each week, just as in Reception, to help reinforce letter-sound knowledge and fluency.
- **Reading for Pleasure**  
Your child will continue to select a reading for pleasure book from our classroom library. These are meant for shared reading enjoyment at home, even if your child isn't reading them independently yet.
- **Homework Routines**  
Weekly homework continues. For the first half term you will receive weekly phonics homework. After the October half term, in Year 1 we set one English or Maths workbook activity each Friday, due the following Wednesday. The style mirrors Reception but with a gentle step-up in content.
- **Healthy Snacks & Water Bottles**  
Just like in Reception, please send your child with a named water bottle



(water only please) and a healthy snack (fruit or veg preferably), though we continue providing school fruit daily.

## What's Changing in Year 1?

- **PE Days & Kits**  
Children should arrive at school in their full PE kit (indoor and outdoor), with long hair tied back and earrings removed for safety. Children will have 2 PE days per week and these will be shared with you in the first newsletter of the school year.
- **Homework Structure**  
Although homework remains weekly, Year 1 includes more structured workbook tasks in Maths or English, along with a half-termly "Homework Bingo" with optional cross-curricular challenges.
- **Reading Record Expectations**  
Please ensure your child's reading book and signed reading record come into school *every day*. This helps us monitor progress and supports dialogue about what your child is reading at home.
- **More Formal Learning Structure**  
Reception's largely play-based, child-initiated style gives way to a more subject-specific, structured learning approach in Year 1, designed to build on what children have mastered and extend their knowledge and resilience.
- **Curriculum Enrichment**  
In Year 1, we deepen learning through subject-focused lessons enriched with high-quality texts, vocabulary development, enquiry-based foundation subjects, and mastery-oriented maths; this all builds on the strong foundations laid in the Early Years.
- **Rewards and House Points**  
A new and exciting part of moving into main school (Year 1 - Year 6) is celebrating the House system. Every child belongs to one of our four Houses

and can earn House Points for positive learning, behaviour, and living out our school values. These are collected weekly and contribute to whole-school rewards, helping children feel part of a team as well as celebrating individual effort and achievement. These are shared, with our Headteacher Awards, in our weekly main school assembly (Year 1 - Year 6). Reception receive awards in the EYFS weekly assembly.

## Timings of the School Day

Drop off at the main school gate: 8:40-8:55am

Collect children from the classroom doors: 3:30-3:40pm

## Your Year 1 Team

- Swallow Class – *Mr Lacey*: [rlacey@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:rlacey@bestacademies.org.uk)
- Chaffinch Class – *Mrs Hart*: [fhart@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:fhart@bestacademies.org.uk) and *Mrs Kennedy*: [kkennedy@bestacademies.org.uk](mailto:kkennedy@bestacademies.org.uk)

LSAs: *Miss Boundy, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Osmani*

If you have any questions big or small, please do get in touch! We are committed to open, helpful communication and ensuring every family feels supported.

We're incredibly excited for the year ahead and to watch your children continue to grow in confidence, curiosity, and joy in learning.

Welcome to Year 1!

Warm regards,

Miss Hayes & the Year One team