

ST MARGARET CLITHEROW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Diocese of Westminster Academy Trust

Dear Parents,

I hope this letter finds you well and you all had a wonderful summer break! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the Year One teacher and provide you with the relevant information for the busy term ahead. In Year One, we are fortunate to have Miss Bartesaghi and Mrs Phillips working with us. We are very lucky to have such a supportive team, and we are all looking forward to getting to know the children and helping them to settle into Year One.

The transition from Reception to Year One is an exciting time for children, as they begin to take on new challenges and become increasingly independent learners. Our priority during these first few weeks will be helping the children to feel happy, confident and secure in their new classroom, while establishing routines and getting to know one another.

Please find attached a copy of our class timetable which allows the children opportunities for child-initiated learning as well as daily teaching of phonics, reading, English and maths.

Reading

The children will have three reading sessions at school across the week, as well as their daily phonics lesson. However, for the children to really make excellent progress with their reading we need your help! We would very much encourage you to spend 10 minutes every day enjoying a book in a quiet place with your child. Over the course of a week the children will bring home three different books from school, so you should have plenty of reading material to enable you to do this. A conversation about what they have read, the characters in the story and predictions about what might happen next are very important for the children's developing comprehension. Once you have completed any home reading, please record a quick note in your child's reading diary, so that we are able to see how they got on with you at home. It would also be very helpful if **their reading books remain in their book bags and are brought into school every day** so that we are able to change them if necessary and use them for in class reading sessions. Thank you in advance for all your support with the children's reading.

Spellings

We will send home a new set of spellings every **Friday**, which the children will be tested on the following **Friday**. Your child's spelling test book will also be sent home for you to look at and celebrate their progress. Please ensure that the spelling test book remains in your child's book bag so that it is available in school when needed.

We would really appreciate your support with practising spellings at home. There are lots of simple ways you can help your child:

- Talk about the **meaning of each word** and use it in a sentence.
- Encourage your child to **sound out each word carefully**.
- Help them to **count the sounds** they can hear in the word.
- Encourage them to **write the word from memory**, rather than simply copying it.
- Praise their efforts and encourage them to have another go if they make a mistake.

A visual aid to support your child with **correct letter formation** when practising their spellings has been attached for your reference.

Uniform

Please could you ensure all clothing is labelled to save lost jumpers and staff sanity! Thank you in advance!

Snack and Water Bottles

If you would like to provide your child with a snack from home, please ensure it is a piece of fruit. Alternatively, the children are provided with a piece of fruit every morning before break time. We do not have cups in Year One, so it is important the children bring in a named bottle of water every day.

If you have any questions or queries throughout the year, please do not hesitate to speak to one of the team at the classroom door in the morning or at the end of the school day. Alternatively, please contact the school office if you would like to arrange an appointment.

We are very much looking forward to working with you and your children and getting to know them as they begin their Year One journey. We hope to make it a happy, exciting and productive year, filled with lots of opportunities for learning, growing and making wonderful memories together.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

Amy Coleman
Assistant Headteacher and Year One Class Teacher