



Holy Family Catholic Primary School

Hall Lane, Cronton, Cheshire WA8 5DW

Tel: 0151 424 3926 Fax: 0151 420 3177

Headteacher: Mrs J Cook-Hannah

We pray together. We play together. We learn together.

Year One Newsletter

Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome back to a new school year and a big hello from me! We have had a lovely first few days in Year 1 and I am really looking forward to the upcoming year and meeting with all of you over the coming weeks and beyond. This letter will outline the expectations for your child in Year One.

In the class this year will be Miss Cook and I. Miss Langton will also provide support throughout the year and during provision times Ms Connolly and our new Reception teacher Miss Smith will also support the Year One children. Mrs Evans will continue to support the Reception/Year One class whilst she fulfils her new role as deputy.

Our Routine

Each day the children will have a Letters and Sounds, Literacy, Maths and RE carpet time. Other subjects such as Science and History are incorporated into their play. We call this play time Continuous Provision in which children learn through play directed by their interests. The adult role during this time is to extend the children's learning but it is also important that we allow the children to be curious and seek and find during this time.

In the summer term Year 1 will gradually adopt a more adult directed approach to learning. This will ensure a smooth transition into Year 2 where much of their learning will remain adult directed. This will begin after the Easter holidays and you will be given more information about this closer to the time.

Literacy

Over the next few weeks we will be exploring the Shakespeare play 'The Tempest' which will build on the children's knowledge from Reception. Children will have access to a range of fiction and non-fiction books and these will draw on the children's own interests as observed whilst in the setting.

After that, we will explore a different topic each week which will be detailed in our weekly newsletter.

Letters and Sounds

We will be returning to Phase 3 this term and revising the sounds that the children have become familiar with during the end of their time in Reception. During Phase 3 there are new sounds to learn. We will be reinforcing these before moving on to Phase 4. In Phase 4 there are no new sounds but we will consolidate the learning that has taken place previously and learning how to read cvcc (consonant vowel consonant consonant) words.

Again, these new sounds and words will be detailed in the weekly newsletter for you to practice at home.

RE/Come and See

This term we will be learning about Families as part of our Domestic Church topic. To help us with this please could you send in some family photographs for our display. These can be relatives who live at home/outside of the home or whomever your child would consider their family. Following this we will be exploring Belonging as part of our Baptism topic and then Waiting as part of our Advent topic.

Handwriting/Physical Development

As explained to you during your child's time in Reception, our ethos at Holy Family is for each child to be fully prepared for being fully competent writers. We believe that the most effective way of children becoming effective, engaged and enthusiastic writers is to introduce them to writing at their own pace. You may have spoken to Mrs Evans about your child's physical development and fine motor skills during Reception. Using information we have collected from observations of your child, we have identified children for the Autumn handwriting group and the Physical Development group.

For 15 minutes in the morning the Handwriting group will begin learning the cursive style of handwriting by learning the individual letters and their letter families. During this time the Physical Development group will work with Miss Langton and Miss Cook on fun and exciting activities to build up core strength in their arms, hands and fingers. There will be another Handwriting group in the Spring and Summer terms and by the end of Year One we anticipate that *all* children will be successful and excited writers. If there are any questions about this we can discuss these at our Coffee Morning.

During Literacy lessons we focus on 'Talk for Writing' which allows children to express their written ideas through speaking and listening skills, pictures and drama.

Behaviour - Our Values In Reception/Year One

We have started the year together this year discussing 6 key values that we believe will shape the year to come. These are the same values the children became aware of during their time in Reception. They are as follows:

Listen	Wait	No
Quiet	Come	Care

The children have suggested some fantastic explanations for what these words mean in the setting and how we can use them. Perhaps you can discuss them with your child at home and what they will mean for us in the classroom.

Punctuality/Absence

The children should line up at 8.55am on the playground unless it is raining heavily, in which case classroom doors will be opened a little earlier. It is your responsibility to supervise them up until this point. The teachers will meet the children on the playground at this time and lead them inside.

Any child arriving after the class have entered the classroom at 8.55am needs to go to the main door to be signed in by Mrs Glanvill or Mrs Campbell. If for any reason your child is absent from school, please contact us to let us know. If we do not hear from you then Mrs Featherstone, our Learning Mentor, will ring to find out why your child is absent.

If you need to collect your child at any time in the day for an appointment, could you please report to the office and your child will be collected from their classroom.

Code of Conduct

- Correct school uniform must be worn unless there is a particular explained reason. This includes P.E kit. Please ensure all uniform is labelled including PE kits!
- Children should not run inside school. They should move around the building in safe and sensible manner.
- After leaving the building at lunchtime, children should not re-enter the school building without permission.
- Children will show respect to all adults in the school.
- No abusive language is tolerated.
- Jewellery, apart from a wrist watch, is not permitted.
- Nail varnish should not be worn.
- No mobile phones will be allowed in school without permission.

Praising and Rewarding

Throughout the school day children are encouraged and praised. There are many opportunities for children's achievements and efforts to be praised including certificate assemblies, Headteacher awards, Lenny the Giraffe and Shakespeare.

In the Year One classroom children have a Caring Line and a Listening Line. If they demonstrate a caring or listening attitude throughout the week then their picture is placed on the line. Our hope is that all children's achievements can be celebrated so by the end of the week all children have their picture on the board.

PE

The children will have 2 hours of P.E every week. This amount of regular exercise is important; therefore please ensure that they have a full PE kit in school at all times. If your child doesn't have PE kit, they will be offered a school kit from a bank of spares that parents have donated. A letter will also be sent home if they do not have their kit.

Year One will have PE on Thursdays and Fridays. Please label all PE Kits (including shoes and shirts!) to ensure your child goes home in the correct uniform. As Mrs Evans mentioned in Reception, asking your child to dress themselves at home will help them to get into the routine of changing for PE. Thank you.

Uniform

Please make sure that your child has the correct school uniform and that all items of uniform are *clearly marked* with your child's name to prevent items getting lost. Also, please ensure that long hair is tied back at all times. We ask that PE Kits, water bottles, coats and all uniform are labelled.

Water Bottles and Snacks

As in Reception, snack will be provided for the children in class. Snack money for the current autumn term costs £10.50. This needs to be sent in a sealed envelope with your child's name on and the amount paid. The children will receive a healthy snack, fruit and milk every day. Snack is available from 9.30am until 10.45am and fruit is also available in the afternoon. Please encourage your child to bring in a water bottle. They will have opportunities throughout the day to refill their bottle if necessary. Please ensure your child brings their bottle home for washing at the weekend and brings it back to school refilled on Monday.

Dinner Menus

Dinner menus will be handed out during the week. Please fill them in and send them back into school as soon as possible. If you have not returned the menu by Friday then children will fill it in with a member of staff. This enables us to consolidate the menus for the kitchen staff for the coming week.

Wellies

The children need a pair of wellington boots to wear in the outside area: these must have your child's name inside and need to be kept in school. Please send a pair of wellies into school to ensure the children can have access to the outdoors in the winter months.

Reading Books

Children in Year One are expected to read for about 10 minutes each day which should involve them reading the text and being asked questions by whomever they are reading to. This will help your child to develop their understanding of the text and it will allow you to assess whether they have understood what happened in the book.

RARARA books and reading diaries will be sent home every Friday and children will have 3-4 books for the week. We hope that you will enjoy the time sharing books together with your child and that it will open their eyes to an exciting world of imagination and ideas.

Please write a comment or sign in your child's Reading Record to show that you have read with them during the week.

We will do the books at school sometime next week and send them home with the children. RARA books will then begin to be changed 8.45am 18th September.

Documenting Children's Learning

In the Year One class we will continue to document your child's learning in the form of a learning story as you will have seen in Reception. These will be emailed to you through the 2Simple App every two weeks so please read through them and feel free to respond back to us via email or write a comment and send it in. Please let us know if you have changed your email address since July.

Home-Learning Stories

If you would like to share some learning from home with us we would be delighted to hear about it. To send us photos or a Pic Collage please follow the instructions below: 1. Take your video/ photo, and open it in the device gallery. Select 'action' icon in the bottom corner 2. Select the 'mail' option, and send to the email address: inbox@2buildaprofile.com. (Your email account will remember the address once you have written it once) Select the mail option. If you are emailing from a PC, create a new email and upload the file as an attachment. Put your child's full name in the email subject (this will send the video directly into the child's portfolio) and any notes in the body of the email. The photo will then automatically go straight into your child's learning journey file and we will be able to share it with them and the rest of the class.

It's great to see all the lovely things you get up to at the weekend or on your holidays and the progress the children make outside of the classroom so please do continue to send information in however please can we request just one learning story a week. Thank you ☺

Homework

Homework will be detailed in the newsletter sent home on a Friday. Please try to do this with your child as the homework reinforces work we have done during the week. Children may also receive word lists and other curriculum tasks and activities when appropriate. Please send a photo of your child doing the homework to 2Simple.

Coffee Mornings

We will be having a Year One Coffee Morning this year to go through this letter and for us to get to know each other better. Details of this will be sent to you soon, most likely in our weekly newsletter.

Newsletter

We will continue to send out a newsletter each week that will detail the learning that has taken place in the class that week. Please ensure you read this as it will have diary dates on it for events happening in the Reception/Year One class and will also include details of the homework that we ask the children to do each weekend to consolidate their learning that week.

Twitter

There are many ways in which we keep in touch with you at Holy Family, text, email, letters and Twitter. The Reception/Year One class have their own Twitter account which Miss Smith, Mrs Evans and I will use to communicate what we do weekly. This is separate to the school Twitter account and only children who have parental permission for their photographs will be featured on the account. It is a private account and we will only approve parent/carers who we know have children in the Reception/Year One class.

The account is [@recyear1hfc](https://twitter.com/recyear1hfc) and we will be using it from next week.

Recyclable Materials

We would welcome anything you might be throwing away...cereal boxes, kitchen roll tubes, egg boxes, old jewellery and are appreciative of your support in sharing these!

At the moment we are particularly looking for things for our outdoor area including old cable tie reels. We also welcome tubing, car tyres, springs, pallets and recyclable materials for our workshop. If you or someone you know is in a job where they would have access to anything like this we would make great use of it! Thank you in advance! 😊

Questions and appointments

If you have anything you would like to discuss about your child throughout the year please feel free to contact me. However it is very difficult to talk at 8:55am when collecting the children from the playground or at 3:15pm when dismissing the children so where possible, please arrange an appointment by contacting the office during the school day.

Afterschool Clubs

You will receive information about these in due course.

Party Invitations

The school have reviewed their policy regarding party invitations. Please note that whilst we are able to put party invitations in bags, due to the volume of party replies that we get given in class staff are unable to give these out too. This is due to time pressure at the end of the day. If your child has invitations to give out please ask them to hand them to a member of staff and these will be discreetly put in book bags.

Golden Time/Toys in School

Year One do not have Golden Time until the end of this year in the Summer term. That means children are not able to bring toys into the class at the moment - this is to ensure that items from home do not get damaged. Thanks for your co-operation with this.

Finally...

Thank you for reading this long letter and for your continued support! I am sure we are going to have a fantastic year together and I am looking forward to getting to know each child and their family.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Mitchell, Miss Cook & Miss Langton