



ST. ANTHONY'S SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Welcome to Year 1

Year 1 is an exciting year for the children at St. Anthony's. The curriculum builds upon and extends the experiences that the children have had in Reception and, in the early stages, our aim is for a smooth transition so that the boys remain motivated, enthused and eager to learn. The information below hopes to ensure that the transition is a smooth one for you too.

As in Reception, there are two forms in Year 1. 1R is taught, primarily, by Rebecca, with Mimi as the class teaching assistant. For the first part of the Christmas term, the boys in IS are being taught jointly by Sophie and Jo. As you will probably have noticed, Sophie is expecting a baby soon and so, once she goes on maternity leave, Jo will be taking key responsibility for the class, with the help of Maggie as the class TA.

The Year 1 day starts with Registration at 8.55. It is really important that the children are at school and in the classroom by this time. Unlike in Reception, drop off is in the school hall, anytime from 8.15, where Dana or Sandra and the TA team will be there to greet the children. If you have any information to pass on to Rebecca, Jo or Sophie, please do tell one of the members of staff on duty. Alternatively, e-mail messages can be sent through Kathryn in the office at jhoffice@stanthonysprep.co.uk and these will be forwarded to the relevant member of staff.

As in Reception, we spend time developing the boys' independence and organisational skills, as appropriate, throughout the year, but they do need support from parents and teachers along the way. You can help your son by ensuring that he brings a water bottle (labelled with his name), his book bag, appropriate outdoor

wear and a small break-time snack to school every day. In addition, he will need to bring in his swimming kit and P.E. kit to school on the appropriate days (see below).

Physical Education

Swimming lessons take place from the beginning of the Christmas term in our pool that is located in the Senior House. 1R have swimming on a Friday and 1SJ swim every Tuesday, so they will need to bring a swimming bag containing their swimming trunks, goggles, flip flops and a towel to school on these mornings.

Both classes have P.E. on Mondays and Thursdays, taught on the school playground and in the hall. Please can your son come to school in his P.E. kit every Monday morning, with his uniform brought to school in his sports havasak to change back into. P.E. kits will be sent home on Thursday afternoons ready for the following week. As outlined in the information sent out at the end of last term, the Year 1 P.E. kit should consist of the school tracksuit, blue sports shorts, a white t-shirt and trainers.

Please could you help your son by encouraging independence when dressing and undressing himself at home.

Literacy and Numeracy

Phonics

We continue to follow a structured phonics programme with key sounds being focused on each week. These will be sent home with the boys for you to practise at home.

Reading

We hear the children read as much as possible throughout the week. This might be on a one-to-one basis, in the form of a group reading session or out loud in class. We also send home reading books which are changed regularly. Our main focus is on developing fluency and understanding. Please be aware that we are reluctant to move a child onto a higher level unless they are reading with all the necessary skills: pace, expression, awareness of punctuation and comprehension of the text. They are, of course, exposed to a range of different material throughout the year and we explore a range of texts including both fiction and non-fiction and a variety of poetry.

Writing

At the beginning of the year we spend time focusing on sentence structure, ensuring that what the children have written makes sense and the correct usage of capital letters, full stops and question marks. The children write in a journal every week and, as the year progresses, we explore the use of descriptive language, story structure

and also other forms of writing. In Year 2, the children are expected to write using a cursive style and so this year, we help the children work towards this by using a pre-cursive style (please see the attached sheet).

Maths

The basic skills that are reinforced throughout the year are:

- Number formation – taking care to form the numbers correctly and not to reverse digits;
- Number bonds (initially within 10);
- Mental arithmetic;
- Place value.

The core curriculum, including Science, Religious Education and Humanities is taught primarily by the form teachers, but the children are also taught by several subject specialists, including Rachel for French, Paul and Jonathan for Music, Peiwen for Mandarin and Anthony and Luke for P.E..

A more detailed outline of the Year 1 curriculum is available on the school website at www.stanthonysprep.org.uk

Homework

As mentioned above, we will be sending the letter sounds that we are covering home every week. Please do go through these regularly as this knowledge helps to develop both the boys' reading and spelling skills. We also send home simple spellings every week and, whilst formal spelling tests do not begin until later in the year, we will be assessing the children's spelling of these words informally at some point during the school week.

In terms of reading development, nothing makes up for the one-to-one attention that your child can receive from you at home. Every night, please take the opportunity to read with your son for five to ten minutes and record this in his reading record book.

To help your son develop key mathematical skills, it is beneficial to give him the opportunity to apply these as often as possible in everyday life: giving him the opportunity to buy small items when visiting shops and calculating and counting his change; spotting two and three dimensional shapes in the environment; talking about time, the days of the week and the months of the year and working on his mental arithmetic.

School Visits and Activities

Throughout the year a number of visits and activities are planned to support and enrich the children's learning. We do value parental support but require that any accompanying parents have DBS clearance processed by the school. Please do see Kathryn if you did not have an opportunity to do this last year. Please do be aware, that we have a strict policy regarding ratios and, if parent helpers drop out at the last minute, there is a chance that trips may have to be cancelled. Please do only volunteer yourself for individual trips if you feel sure that you are able to make a firm commitment.

Reporting Schedule

To keep you updated on your son's progress, the reporting schedule for this academic year will be as follows:

October 2017:	Target setting meeting with form teachers;
December 2017:	End of Term Report in English, Maths and Science;
January 2018:	Parents' Evening to discuss report and to set targets for the coming term;
April 2018:	Target setting meeting for the Summer Term;
June 2018:	End of year report in all subject areas.

We hope that this schedule will ensure that parents get valuable feedback about their children's progress at key times throughout the academic year. As in your report at the end of the last academic year, attainment will not be graded, but you will be given a clear indication of how your child is progressing in line with our expectations. If you have any concerns at any other point throughout the year you should, as always, feel free to make contact with either your son's form teacher, through the main office e-mail, jhoffice@stanthonysprep.co.uk, or directly with Dana.

We hope that this information is useful. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Dana, Sandra and the TA team are really good at getting messages through to us first thing in the morning, or do call – we will always get back to you as soon as we are able to!