

Dear Class 1,

Welcome back to school!

We have missed you all very much and look forward to a new school year with you all. This year will be very different to other years, the classrooms look different, all the rules have changed and we have to wash our hands a lot and keep our distance from others. But our intention is to make this year an exciting year of learning for you. We are having to change the way we do things because we have to do our very best to keep you safe from the Corona Virus, but we promise you that we will make learning fun and enjoyable.

We know that some of you might have not been in school for over five months and that is a really long time to be away from school. We don't want you to worry about coming back to school- we are here to help you settle back in to school life.

You will have your own place in the classroom and you will keep all your belongings with you. We will eat dinner in the classroom and everyone will be on a packed lunch. You must not share your packed lunch or touch other people's food. The tables will be washed down before and after your lunch.

You will find that you have to sanitise your hands a lot throughout the day, don't worry about this your teachers will remind you. You will need to sanitise when you when you come into school, after breaks and before and after lunch.

We have our own playground space for our break times. At break times we have to try very hard to socially distance from other children. All the adults will help you do this, one of the ways we will do this is by having PE and exercise sessions during our breaks. It is very important that you wear your trainers for school at the moment so that you can join in the exercises safely. Sometimes your teachers may want to do a PE activity that requires you to wear more sporting clothes like a tracksuit. If this is the case they will tell you in advance and a text will be sent home to your parents to let them know as well.

Our class have specific toilets that they must use, these are labelled. Always make sure that you wash your hands after going to the toilet. Mr Walley our Caretaker is coming back each lunch time to give the toilets and extra clean during the day.

In the term weeks you will find that we do more Maths and English than we normally do. We are going to work with you to ensure that you have a good understanding and there are no gaps in your knowledge.

Important information:

- Book Changing day is **Friday**.
- Homework
 - English homework in the first instance will be x 15 minutes per week using IDL Specialist Literacy programme (Please note with IDL – the more the children do the greater the impact!)

- Maths will be given out on a Friday and will be due in on the Friday after. This may include: My Maths (one piece of work per week) and Times Tables Rock Stars (minimum x15 minutes per week)
- All children will be given a password to log on at home for IDL/MyMaths and Times Table Rockstars.
- Please note that with MyMaths, the homework has to be completed in one go. You cannot dip in and out of the homework.



Information for parents

All the staff have worked very hard over the summer planning to ensure all our children will receive a high quality education within the constraints that COVID presents. As always our aim to teach an ambitious and broad curriculum, but we will make use of the existing flexibilities as outlined by GOV.UK to ensure that we create time to cover the most important missed content. Our aim as per the guidance is to return to our normal curriculum in all subjects by summer 2021.

Over the coming weeks we will assess and review the children so that teaching time can be prioritised to address any gaps in pupil knowledge. We will prioritise Maths, English, Science PHSE and RE in the first instance, although we intend to also encompass art and music within the curriculum.

At this stage PE will be addressed during breaks / lunch – we have evaluated the PE curriculum and picked out the elements that we can safely deliver. The New Hall is currently a classroom so all PE will take place outside. Children must wear trainers to school so that they can participate in the daily exercise. If we feel that the children need to come in a tracksuit to complete a PE activity we will let you know in advance via text.

There are some limitations in terms of what we can deliver and how we can deliver the curriculum. For example: - with music, dance and drama, there is an additional risk of infection. Our intention as and when we cover these is to put additional mitigations in place such as: extended social distancing, small groups and to follow the latest guidance. We are on a steep learning curve and we are sure that we will have to constantly evaluate and review how we deliver the curriculum in school and that changes will be made along the way. Over the coming weeks and months we will continue to encompass more subjects within the curriculum once we know that we have addressed any key learning gaps within literacy and numeracy.

We are very aware that children have had very different home learning experiences, depending on the family circumstances. For Key Worker parents and parents that have had to juggle working from home with home schooling it has been very challenging. We have had parents contacting us worried that they haven't had the time to home school as effectively as they would have liked, whilst other parents have explained that they have been in a position where they could give high levels of support to home schooling. We want to reassure you all that we will support and ensure that key learning gaps are addressed where appropriate and we will also ensure that we stretch and challenge where appropriate too.

Numeracy

The focus will be on:-

- Number and place value
- Addition and subtraction
- Multiplication and division facts

- Fractions, decimals and percentages
- Mental maths
- Times tables
- Arithmetic

Literacy

- Phonics
- Comprehension
- Vocabulary development
- Reading
- Spelling

Science

Science will be focused upon revisiting topics and objectives as part of our recovery curriculum.

PHSE

We will be focusing on emotional health and well-being as we settle the children back into school life. We will be using 'SCARF Coram Education' and the new Lancashire SEND pack 'Stepping back into school'- as well as a wide range of resources to support our children explain new rules and changes in our school life and exploring feelings and emotions.

RE and Worship

Currently the COVID guidelines don't allow for gatherings of larger groups such as for assemblies and collective worship. Fr Martin intends to send pre-recorded worships through to school each week so that these can be shared with the children in their zones via the interactive T.V's. All other worship will take place in the classrooms. Unfortunately, there will not be class assemblies at this stage, this will be reviewed in line with guidance.

In R.E. we will be covering the following topics:

Understanding Christianity

- The Bible and why it is a special book
- God and Creation
- Christmas – Why do we give and receive gifts?

Homework

Home work will resume as normal.

We know that it will take time to settle into the 'new norm' but we really need to ensure that we implement structure and routine in terms of school and expectations. We really need you to support us with this, as that partnership with you is vital as we need to be consistent and united in our expectations. Therefore we ask you to encourage your children to undertake and complete homework tasks in order to promote:

- good attitude to work
- self-esteem and a sense of achievement
- improved standards of performance

We value the support you give to your children through discussion of their homework, and would especially ask you to ensure that your child has the time and environment in which to work undisturbed. We ask that you ensure that your child completes their homework each week. However, should there be an extenuating circumstance and your child has been unable to complete the homework on time, please send in a short note explaining the reason.

Class	Maximum Time per day spent on homework	Daily homework	Weekly tasks (Please note with IDL and tables you don't have to do it all in one go – you can spread out over the week.)		Homework Given out	Homework due in	Other
One (Year ½)	20 – 25 mins. per night	10 mins reading each night 5 mins times tables per day	My Maths	15 mins	10 mins reading each night	Set on Fridays and returned the following <i>Friday</i>	Throughout the year the children will also have:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional mini projects – presentations. These will look very different this year. We will ask you to produce a short video at home that we can share with the class – more information will be sent out on this. 'Talk' home work when relevant and linked to literacy
			TT Rock Stars	10 mins	n/a		
			IDL	15 mins	n/a	n/a	
Reading book information							
Books will be changed on Friday's							

Additional Info:

Thank-you so much for allowing us to keep children's pencil cases in school and in their individual trays (to reduce contamination risk). Please can I also ask that except for the children's pack lunch (if bringing one in) and on Friday's when returning/changing home reading books - if possible- please could large school bags not be brought into school for the rest of the time. We are quite limited for

space at the desks and although they are hung on the back of chairs- they do still take up a lot of space and make sanitising/moving around tables more difficult for the teachers.

Finally, on a personal note, thank-you so much for making me feel so welcome as your child's new class teacher. It genuinely is a pleasure to teach each and every one of them and I feel very privileged to have such a wonderful class (in such a wonderful school).

Many Thanks

Mrs Marshall