St Dunstan's Catholic School

Drayton Road, King's Heath, Birmingham, B14 7LP

As we Grow With God, We Learn From Each Other

Welcome to Year 1

Dear Year 1 Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to a new school year at St Dunstan's Catholic Primary School. We hope you have all enjoyed a restful and happy summer break. We are delighted to welcome the children back and are looking forward to a wonderful year of learning, growth and faith together.

This year, your child's teacher is Miss Henrick, who is supported by Miss Blunn. We have lots of exciting learning planned and look forward to helping each child grow in faith, knowledge and confidence as we live out our school mission: '*As we grow with God, we learn from each other.*'"

Please find below some important information to help your child have a successful start to the year.

Start and End of the School Day

- The school gates open at **8:30am**
- The Car Drop off opens at 8.35am. If you are planning on using this, please do not drive down the road until this time. Staff will be on the road from 8.35am to safely escort your child from the car
- The gates close promptly at **8:50am**.
- The school day ends at **3:30pm**.
- Please ensure your child is collected on time each afternoon.

Reading

Reading is one of the most important ways you can support your child's learning at home.

- Children are expected to read with an adult every evening.
- Parents and carers should sign the reading journal regularly.
- Reading journals must be returned on a Friday.
- Home reading books will be changed on Friday.

Spellings

- Children are expected to practise spellings each week. These will be sent home on a Monday.

Numbots

- Your child will be given a login and are expected to complete 15 minutes per week. If your child is unable to use a device, please speak to the class teacher.

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Home Learning Project

Throughout the year, children will also be set a **half-termly Home Learning Project** linked to the liturgical year or our Catholic Social Teaching theme. These projects will support our whole-school focus on the **Religious Education curriculum, the Liturgical Year and Catholic Social Teaching**. They will provide opportunities for children and their families to explore their faith, reflect on Gospel values and respond creatively to issues that matter in our world.

Completed projects will be celebrated within the classroom and shared across the school, allowing children to take pride in their work and learn from one another. We look forward to seeing the many different ways children engage with and bring these important aspects of Catholic life to life through their projects.

Our first Home Learning Project is based on the Season of Creation, celebrating the Year of St Francis of Assisi, and is due in school by **Friday 2nd October.** Children in Year 1 are asked to decorate a flower to show the beauty of God's creation. The template will be sent home.

Uniform

At St Dunstan's, we take great pride in our school uniform as it helps to create a sense of belonging and reflects our high expectations for all pupils. We ask that children come to school each day wearing the correct school uniform and with all items clearly named.

To ensure children are always prepared for active learning opportunities, please make sure that your child has their **full PE kit in school every day**, even on days when PE is not timetabled, as activities and events may sometimes require it.

There is no need to send a water bottle from home. Each child is provided with a school water bottle, which is cleaned and washed daily to ensure it remains hygienic and ready for use. Please also ensure your child has a suitable coat or sunhat, depending on the weather.

The Government provides free fruit and vegetables to Early Year and Key Stage 1 pupils through the School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme to encourage healthy eating habits, improve children's diets and support their health and wellbeing from an early age. Children in Key Stage 2 are welcome to bring a piece of fruit into school to have at break time. **No other snack** is permitted.

Children are invited to wear their own clothes on their **birthday,** or the day closest to it, so that everyone in school can wish them a 'Happy Birthday!' No jewellery is permitted with their own clothes.

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Communication Pathway

To ensure that queries are resolved as quickly and effectively as possible, parents should always contact their child's **class teacher in the first instance**. In the vast majority of cases, class teachers are able to address questions or concerns promptly. Should further support be required following discussion with the class teacher, the matter can then be referred to a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Thank you for your support. We look forward to a happy and successful year ahead.

Year 1 Team