



St Bartholomew's C of E Primary School
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Monday 11th September '23

Dear Year 1 families,

I am mindful that having moved from Foundation Stage to Year 1, a lot of your child's school and curriculum experience will now be very different, even from this early stage.

One key change is that last year, 'Tapestry' formed an important part of your communications with school but also your awareness of what your child was involved with during the school day. Sadly, this is not something that is continued in Key Stage 1 (year's one and two), primarily because of the change of 'framework' and how those statements would link with your child's observations and notes. I fully understand though that you may have begun to feel very removed from what your son/daughter is doing.

Firstly, it is important to express that the curriculums are very different, as children move into what is termed Key Stage 1. In Foundation Stage, the approach enables and allows for learning through play and child-initiated experiences scaffolded (supported and built upon through questioning) by an adult, as well as more specified adult-led activities and teacher input sessions.

Moving into Year 1, the expectation - and owing to readiness for subsequent years - is knowledge building, improving skills, a widening vocabulary and growing maturity to contribute in lessons and manage the school day independently... a lot, for young children returning from summer down-time.

That said, the Autumn term in Year 1, is very much about your child's transition from one to the other. There will still be, for instance, play-based and outdoor learning. Independence, in and out of the classroom, will be built up gradually with a view to working in a more formalised/ structured way from half term or for those that need longer, towards Christmas - as and where appropriate; some children, of course, may be ready sooner.

Moving forward, and particularly in terms of communication, please remember that school has an 'open-door' policy. Where you have a question or concern, please talk with your child's class teacher or a member of support staff. This may be possible during 'drop-off' or collection time but sometimes for us and yourselves, as I am sure you can appreciate, it can also be busy and more time pressured - why not use that time to make an appointment for a meeting or phone call...?

A member of the senior leadership team, including myself, will also be at the front and/ or back gates first thing and at the end of the day. Our two Assistant Heads are Mrs Sarah Oakland and Mrs Sonya Campbell – we may be able to help, advise or at the very least, support in terms of setting up a conversation.



In addition, you will have access to the Class teacher's e-mail and your child's 'reading diary' also becomes an important tool in this respect. **Parent's evening is now only a couple of weeks away - week beginning 2nd October.**

Lastly, I would just like to outline lunchtimes, as this can still be a daunting part of the day for our younger pupils. I have spent a lot of time in and around the hall and outdoor areas during this time and as I am sure you can picture, feeding 530+ children over the course of 1 ½ hr is logistically very demanding. That said, the team of lunchtime supervisors and kitchen staff are very committed to still ensuring this is a positive experience, from the quality of the food to ensuring pupils get a reasonable time to eat.

For Foundation Stage, Year 1 and 2, lunchtime starts at 11.45 – the older children, in Year's 3 to 6 do not start their lunchbreak until 12.15. Our youngest pupils eat first, followed by the Year 1's. At this stage, Year 1 and 2 will be playing on the playground, the field or in and around the 'Badger' and trim-trails. Children are called to lunch by class (Teacher) name with a loud haler... you may have heard this elsewhere in the village! 😊. At this stage, the over-seeing supervisor will be aware if the number of children coming in is not correct and another member of the lunchtime team will start to look for the child/ren.

For children with a packed lunch, this next stage is simply being seated and having their lunch - obviously this can be impacted on if they 'socialise' with their neighbour a lot... we do encourage talk but also prioritise eating at this time. Children having a hot dinner, will line up in the hall to collect their food, again supervised by an adult – this is also the second stage at which numbers are counted and the over-seeing adult will be informed if numbers are not correct and a second search for the pupil(s) having not come in will take place.

If a child has not made it in, having forgotten or been engrossed in play, we will of course still ensure they have time to eat lunch. Depending upon the timing at this point though, it may be that they do this back in class, as I feel this is a more comfortable environment than potentially being sat on their own in amongst the older, bigger pupils as they start their break period.

Please rest assured, that in terms of safety during this period, children cannot wander beyond the school perimeter or move in and around school unsupervised.

I hope the above information goes some way to addressing some of the questions and concerns you may at this stage have. If not before, I look forward to seeing you, virtually or in person, at our forthcoming parent's evening.

Many thanks for your continued support - kindest regards,

A. Clark

Mr Clark

(Headteacher)



