



St. Catherine's
RC Primary School

Key Information For Year 1

September 2025

Be who God wants you to be and so set the world on fire



0161 445 6359

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www.st-catherines.manchester.sch.uk

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Welcome to Year 1!



This presentation will provide key information regarding your child's new year group. We hope you will find this useful and please know that we are here to answer any questions you may have too.

'Be who God wants you to be and so set the world on fire' – Saint Catherine of Siena



Meet The Team

Teachers:

Miss Young: Class 3

Miss Timmons: Class 4



Teaching Assistants working within our year group:

Mrs Donnelly

Mrs Rowley

Mrs Alvarez, Miss Overbury (1:1)

Note: teaching assistants may be working within other year groups too, as well as with specific individual/groups of pupils.

We are always happy to answer any questions you may have.

If you wish to speak to your child's class teacher, please contact the office on 0161 445 6359 or admin@st-catherines.manchester.sch.uk

Expectations

We have high expectations and aspirations for all of our children and expect them to show our school's core values throughout the school day, as well as outside of school.

We expect our children to arrive at school on time with a positive attitude to learning, trying their best in all aspects of their work. We aim to inspire them to 'set the world on fire' by being who God wants them to be.



Our Core Values

These core values have been drawn up by our Chaplaincy Team in consultation with the whole school community. We want all our children to demonstrate:

Love

Faith

Respect

Perseverance

Compassion

Inspiration



Rights Respecting School



In Rights Respecting Schools, children's rights are promoted and realised, adults and children work towards this goal together.

Being a Rights Respecting school develops the 'whole self' of each child and underpins everything else we do in school.



Duty bearers are the adults and staff responsible for upholding the 42 articles of the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of a Child, (UNCRC) which are a set of rights for children.

These duty bearers have an obligation to ensure these rights are respected and promoted, embedding them into the school's ethos, policies, and everyday practices.

You may have seen some of the articles on display in and around school!



Class Charters



Every class has a Class Charter.

This is a class agreement, where certain articles have been chosen by children as guidelines towards expectations for the year.



Our Curriculum

Subject	AUTUMN		SPRING		SUMMER	
Core Value	Respect	Love	Perseverance	Faith	Compassion	Inspiration
Theme Days/Weeks	Rights Respecting Week International Day Black History Month Remembrance Day Core Values: Respect and Love Advent		Core Values: Perseverance and Faith Children’s Mental Health Day Safer Internet Day Storytelling Week & World Book Day Holy Week		Core Values: Compassion and Inspiration Pentecost Party Healthy Schools Week Sports Day STEM Day (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths)	
Religion	Creation and Covenant Multi-Faith week	Prophecy and Promise	From Galilee to Jerusalem	From Desert to Garden	To the Ends of the Earth Multi-Faith Week	
Reading	Guided reading takes place weekly in groups. Children access a book one colour band higher than their home reading books and work together in groups to develop their confidence, fluency and comprehension. This prepares the children for transition into Year 2 where they begin the Pathways to Read programme.					
Phonics	Focus sounds: ay, ou, ie, ea oy, ir, ue, aw wh, ph, ew, oe	Focus sounds: au, ey, a-e, e-e i-e, o-o, u-e, c y, al	Focus sounds: a, ey, ea, eigh, a, e i, y o, a u, u ch ea or, ear ou, ie, ve y are, ere, ear, tch	Focus sounds: (alternate sounds) o g, ge, dge, st, ce, se gn, kn wr, mb se, ze eer, ere ti al, or, augh ss, zh, si, ti, ci	Phonics Screening Revision of Phase 5	
Writing	Bumblebear by Nadia Shireen Outcome - Recount: writing about the bee party	Nibbles by Emma Yarlett Outcome - Recount: diary	Lion Inside by Rachel Bright Outcome - Fiction: story based on the structure of the text	The Curious Case of the Missing Mammoth by Ellie Hattie Outcome - Fiction: story based on the structure of the text	Toys in Space by Mini Grey Outcome - Fiction: story based on the structure of the text	Goldilocks and Just the one bear by Leigh Hodgkinson Outcome - Fiction: story based on the structure of the text

Our Curriculum

Subject	AUTUMN		SPRING		SUMMER	
Maths	Place Value within 10 Addition and Subtraction within 10 Geometry: Shape Place value within 20		Number and subtraction within 20 Place Value within 50 Multiplication 2s, 5s & 10s Measure (Length and height, weight and volume)		Multiplication and division Fractions Geometry: Position and direction Place value within 100. Money Time	
Science	Seasonal Changes Everyday Materials, materials and their properties and		Plants: growing seeds and identifying and describing flowers and trees		Animals including humans (focus on humans) *Working scientifically is adapted into every topic	
Topic (Geography and History)	Local Study - School Lane (Geography) A trip down School Lane Big Question: Where does School Lane go?	Toys (History) A Toy Story Big Question: How have toys changed?	England (Geography) Our Country! Big Question: What is our capital city?	Space & Neil Armstrong (Lives of significant individuals who have contributed to international/national achievements- History) To infinity and beyond! Big Question: Can we live in space?	Changes within living memory (History) Kings and Queen Big Question: Why do we have a King or Queen?	UK Countries, Capitals and surrounding seas (Geography) Let's Explore! Big Question: Where is the United Kingdom?
PHSE and RHE	Created and Loved by God "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." (Proverbs 4:23)		Created to Love Others "Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love." (1 Corinthians 16:14)		Created to Live in Community "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it." (Proverbs 4:23)	
PE (indoor)	fitness	Yoga	Gymnastics	Dance	Gymnastics	Dance
PE (outdoor)	Ball skills	Target Games	Invasion Games - Hockey	Net/ Wall- Tennis	Striking and Fielding- Cricket	Athletics

Our Curriculum

Subject	AUTUMN		SPRING		SUMMER	
Music	Charanga- Hey You	Charanga- rhythm in the way we walk and the banana rap.	Charanga- In the groove	Charanga- round and round	Charanga- your imagination	Charanga- Reflect, rewind and replay
Computing	Basic Coding	Word and other programmes- format text images	Algorithm	Programming coding robotics	Digital Painting	Producing Digital Media
MFL	'My name is', general greetings and Happy Birthday Recognising similarities between words in different languages A Spanish story - Mama and number songs/games (1-5) Reacting to food items Song to learn food types and everyday language through song Numbers	Numbers Recognising previously learned language, problem solving Emotions	New Year Enjoying a short stories in Spanish Watching (and performing) a simple finger rhyme Numbers 1-20 and noticing patterns	Exploring an aspect of culture Stories linked to aspects of culture	Participating in playground games Playing with vowel sounds Action songs and warm up games	Imitating actions Enjoying a fable
Art	Kandinsky- Drawing		Jackson Pollock-Painting		Romero Britto - Printing/collage	
DT					Structures - Freestanding structures (Charles Wicksteed)	Mechanisms - Sliders and Leavers (Alexander Calder)

Year 1 Topics

At St. Catherine's, our Topic lessons combine key learning in the subject areas of Geography and History and we combine sticky knowledge and conceptual understanding together into specific topics to help to make learning as purposeful and enjoyable as possible. The lessons will not be known as 'Topic' but rather History and Geography.

In Year 1, our topics are:

- Local Study – School Lane (Geography)
- Toys (History)
- England (Geography)
- People who have changed the world (History - Neil Armstrong)
- Kings and Queens (History)
- UK Countries, Capitals and surrounding seas (Geography)

For each unit of learning, we start with a 'launch day/lesson'. This is a fun and exciting way to engage children in their new learning. You may sometimes receive emails about this as it may involve dressing up, food tasting, school trips, visits, etc.

School Uniform

- Burgundy jumpers and cardigans with school logo on
- White shirt or polo shirt
- Black school shoes (not trainers) to be worn
- No jewellery, including earrings
- Juniors can wear shirt and tie (optional)
- Shoulder-length hair and longer must be tied up
- Plain accessories
- P.E. kits should be worn on P.E. days (see next slide)

It is important that the correct uniform, including school shoes, is worn to school each day.

****Please label all items of clothing and all belongings****

Uniform is available from MCS Stores or Goodies Online, via the school website. If you are struggling to afford school uniform, please speak to a member of our admin team or a senior leader to see how we can help.

School Uniform

P.E. Kit:

- White plain t-shirt (t-shirt with school logo available), burgundy shorts, school jumper/cardigan, trainers
- Please ensure all items of clothing are labelled.
- In colder weather, children can wear **PLAIN** black/navy jogging bottoms/leggings with their school jumper or cardigan instead of burgundy shorts.
- **No other items should be worn as part of the school P.E. kit**

P.E. will take place twice a week, usually with one indoor and one outdoor session.

P.E. days generally change every half-term and you will be informed of changes via the Parent Weekly Update.

Year 1 P.E. days this half-term: Monday and Friday
Children must wear their school P.E. kit into school on these days

Drop-Off and Pick-Up

We ask that children say goodbye to their parents and then walk into their classrooms independently. Children must be **in class** by 8.45am.

If your child arrives to school after this time, you must take them to the school office so that they can be registered.

Children should be picked up from the classroom at 3.15pm.

Punctuality is very important and learning starts straight away so please ensure your child arrives to school on time.

Drop-off time: 8.35-8.45am

Pick-up time: 3.15pm

Healthy Schools

- Water bottles should be brought into class each morning (plain, unflavoured water in a reusable water bottle) and taken home at the end of each day
- Healthy snacks: must be fruit or vegetables or breadsticks (not fruit bars, fruit winders, cereal bars etc)
- In Early Years and KS1, a healthy snack is provided for all children
- We encourage children to eat healthy lunches
- Birthdays – we ask that you please do not send children in with sweets/cakes etc (we will not be able to give them out to children if you do). A class game or book would be greatly appreciated instead if you wish to make a donation.
- We also have healthy school meals provided through Dolce.

Reading in Year 1

Key Stage Reading Guidance

Reading Record Guidance: Key Stage One



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- Your child is expected to read for at least 10 minutes, five times a week. However, they are not limited to five times as we would like them to read as often as possible to develop a real love for books and take pleasure in exploring different types of books.
- Please ignore the days of the week headings and see it as five opportunities to read.
- This is to be recorded in their reading records each time they read.
- When you record what your child has read, please include the following:
 - ✓ The date they have read on.
 - ✓ The name of the book they have read.
 - ✓ The pages that they have read that day.
 - ✓ A couple of sentences about what you have noticed or how they have read.
- When you read with your child, please question them on what they have read, ask them lots of questions about the story as this develops their comprehension and understanding.
- The frequency at which children change their books will be set by teachers and will vary throughout the year, as well as being dependent on book length.
- Children's reading records will be checked by an adult each day/week to ensure that they have completed the above.
- **Please note that reading records need to be signed and filled in for reading books to be changed.**

'Reading is to the mind what
exercise is to the body.'

Reading & Phonics

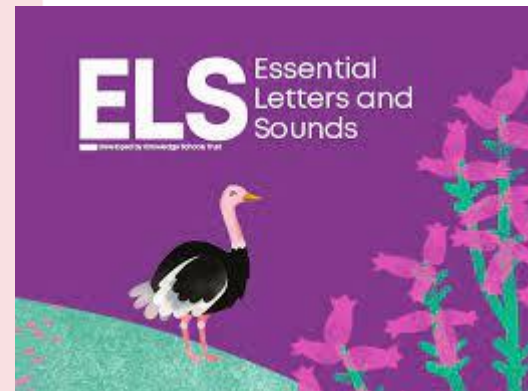
Our school phonics scheme is called Essential Letters & Sounds.

Getting all children to read well, **quickly**

Essential Letters and Sounds is specifically taught in Nursery, Reception and Year 1, however, some children continue to receive phonics interventions after this time to ensure a secure basis for reading fluently and accurately. Year 2 follow the ELS Spelling programme and as of this year, Years 3-6 follow Essential Spelling & Word Knowledge, both of which have been designed to support learning as a next step after children have completed their phonics learning.

Essential Letters and Sounds is a Systematic Synthetic Phonics (SSP) programme, **validated by the Department for Education**. By distilling Letters and Sounds to its purest form, – its essence – we ensure every phonics lesson is taught to the highest standard. Essential Letters and Sounds is an SSP where only the **essential elements** are included. The name reflects the key principles of the programme; **simplicity and consistency**.

Keep Up rather than Catch Up



Home Reading

Reading at home is vitally important.

Your child should read at least five times a week at home to an adult.

During this time, please question them on what they have read and the bookmarks given to your child at the start of year can be used for guidance upon what to ask.

Children are to change their books once a week. They will be taken in on **Monday** and returned on **Wednesday**. At the beginning of the year they will receive two books but this may change as the year progresses. One book is a “Share with Me” book, the other is a ELS book linked to their Phonics learning.

Their reading records will be checked by an adult each week to ensure that they have completed the above.

‘I do believe something very magical can happen when you read a book.’

Homework

	Nursery	Reception	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Year 6
Home Reading	After Christmas, children can choose a storybook to read at home with an adult to promote reading for pleasure.	Five times a week (at least 10 minutes per time) It is also important that children read for pleasure; this may include a library book from school or other reading. You may also enjoy a bedtime story or read often to your children. Listening to an adult read is just as valuable to your child as them reading to you.						
Homework	No homework		One piece a week (based on curriculum learning) - <i>from January</i>	One piece a week (based on curriculum learning)	One piece a week (based on curriculum learning)	One piece a week (based on curriculum learning)	Two pieces a week sent home once a week (based on curriculum learning)	Two pieces a week sent home once a week (based on curriculum learning) Plus, a 'five in five' reading challenge
Homework given out			Wednesday	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday	Friday
Homework collected in			Monday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Wednesday	Wednesday
Spellings			Phonics task (from November) <i>Half-termly overview of phonics sounds taught will be sent to parents too for further practice and consolidation at home.</i>	Half-termly spelling overviews are sent out to parents to show spelling patterns being learnt in school. We ask that children then practise these spelling rules further at home to consolidate their knowledge.				
Times Tables			n/a	n/a	Times Tables Rockstars	Times Tables Rockstars	Times Tables Rockstars	Times Tables Rockstars

Rewards and Sanctions

Core value points:

Children can earn 5 or 10 core value points and can also be placed 'on the shining light' for wonderful learning, behaviour, attitude, showing of core values, etc (this is also equivalent to 15 core value points).

Core Value Point group totals are celebrated each week and term in school.

Negative behaviour can result in moving down the candle until the child has reflected and improved their behaviour. If a more serious incident takes place, this may be recorded as a 'red card event' and parents/carers will be informed.

Attendance and Punctuality

Going to school regularly is important to your child's future. You are legally responsible for making sure they attend every day.

Holidays during school time are not permitted.

The Local Authority are likely to take statutory action regarding any unauthorised absences, including for term-time holidays (see national attendance changes from August 2024).

Children who miss school frequently can fall behind.

Children who miss school frequently can have difficulties with friendship groups.

When a child misses 10 days from school, they have missed out on 5% of their education that school year. Our attendance target is 97%.

We do our absolute best to provide your children with a fantastic education and an enjoyable time in school but we can only do this if your child is present.

Important Information for Year 1

- 18th September– Reading & Phonics Meeting 5pm (Reception & Year 1)
- W.C. 20th October – Parents Meetings
- 1st October – Class 4 Worship 9am
- 12th November – Class 3 Worship 9am
- 5th December – Christmas Crafts 2:15pm
- 17th December – Year 1 Christmas Carol Concert
- 21st January – Parent Drop-in 3.15-3.45pm
- 22nd January – Parent Drop-in 8:15-8:45am
- 4th February Bedtime Story 4:30-5:30pm
- 5th March – World Book Day
- 9th-13 March – STEM Week
- 25th March Class Worship Year 1 Class 4, 9am
- 27th March – Easter Crafts
- April - Reports
- 15th April – Easter Bonnet Parade
- 30th April : Class Worship Year 1 Class 3, 9am
- W.C. 9th June – Phonics Screening Week
- July – Parents Meetings, Sports Day, end of year mass.

Year 1 'Dress up days'

Bee party – end of Autumn 1 (October)

Christmas carols- end of Autumn 2 (December)

London Day – start of Spring 1 (January)

Space day – Start of Spring 2 (February)

World book day- March

Kings and Queens day – Start of Summer 1 (April)

Circus day/festival day- end of Summer 2 (July)

Medical and Health Information

It is important we are kept up to date with any medical information relating to your child.

Asthma

Your child will need a new asthma plan for this year.
Please email your asthma plan to the school office ASAP.

Allergies

Please remember we are a nut free school.
We have some children with severe allergies.

If your child has any allergies or health concerns that we are not already aware of, please contact the school office ASAP.



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

We have two special educational needs and disabilities coordinators (SENDCO) in school:

Mrs McCormick (Nursery, Reception and Year 1)

Ms Rosario (Years 2-6)

If you have concerns regarding your child's progress or think they may have a special educational need or disability, please speak to your child's class teacher or alternatively, email the school office to request a call or meeting with one of our SENDCOs.

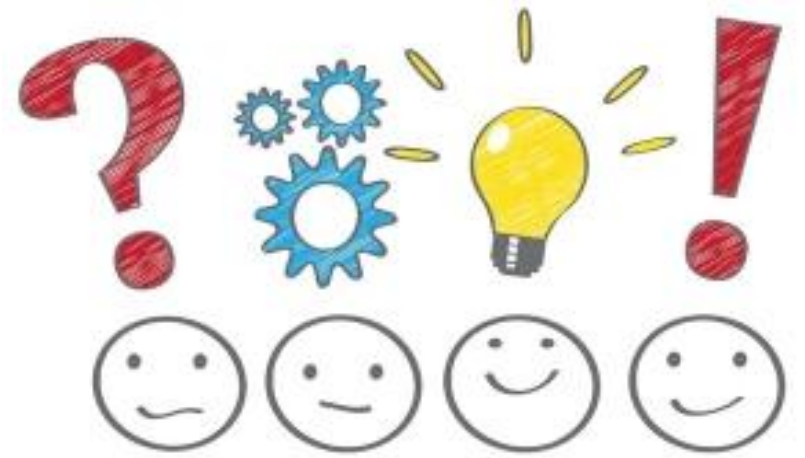
Communication

Each Friday, a 'Parent Weekly Update' is sent out with key school information, including year group information. This is our key method of communication with parents so please do ensure you read it each week. We will occasionally send out other emails to parents where required.

If parents and carers need to make contact with class teachers, this should be through emailing the school office: admin@st-catherines.manchester.sch.uk

(parents and carers are not permitted to directly email class teachers or leaders unless specific approval has been given by the Headteacher, which is only in exceptional circumstances)

Any Questions?



We hope that we will have answered many of the questions you may have had but please know we are always here to help. If you have any further questions, please email the school office and a member of staff will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

School office email:
admin@st-catherines.manchester.sch.uk



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