

Dear parents and carers,

We have made a great start to the year- the children are all settling in amazingly well and working extremely hard at adapting to the changes of Class 1. I'm so pleased to see them coming into school full of enthusiasm for learning and ready to explore not only new projects but a whole new curriculum!

On our class page you can find our autumn term topic web 'Childhood' detailing all the projects and learning focuses that will be taking place this term. We are super excited to be organising and sharing some wonderful experiences with the class and making their learning as fun and enjoyable as can be.

Alongside this terms topic web, you will also find the #mylearning grid and accompanying sheets for your child to complete at home with you. There are some great family activities on there to support the children with their learning in school, as well as some valuable life skills too. We look forward to seeing what the children produce and am ready to proudly display any wow pieces in the classroom and on the Superstar Gallery for all to see on the website. You can place your child's work into a book or folder for them to hand in in class, or send any photos/videos of work to the admin email who will then forward it onto me. All points will be collated at the end of term and any child reaching the required points will be rewarded for their hard work and efforts.

One of the most important parts of #mylearning is reading with your child at least 5 times a week. Although your child will be taught to read at school, you can have a huge impact on their reading journey by continuing their practice at home. As you aware we have been developing reading engagement and participation and have included a little more information regarding the books being sent home with your child to explore.

There are three types of reading books that your child will bring home over the next week:

- A reading practice book - This book has been carefully matched to your child's current reading level. If your child is reading it with little help, please don't worry that it's too easy - your child needs to develop fluency and confidence in reading. Listen to them read the book. Remember to give them lots of praise - celebrate their success! If they can't read a word, read it to them. Encourage expression in their voice and discuss the text once finished.
- A phonics book - This will be matched to your child's phonics phase, your child should be able to read this with growing fluency, confidence and independence as the week progresses.
- A sharing book - In order to encourage your child to become a lifelong reader, it is important that they learn to read for pleasure. The sharing book is a book they have chosen for you to enjoy together from our library. Please remember that you shouldn't expect your child to read this alone. Read it to or with them. Discuss the pictures, enjoy the story, predict what might happen next, use different voices for the characters, explore the facts in a non-fiction book. The main thing is that you have fun!

Reading diaries and books need to be in your child's book bags every day as we will be reading frequently throughout the week. On Thursdays we will keep your child's reading diary and books, as this provides us with time to change them over, ready to be sent home with them again on Friday.

Our PE days are Tuesday (indoor) and Thursday (outdoor). The children are expected to arrive at school in full school PE kit with any earrings removed. Please be mindful that if your child has an after school club that requires them to wear a PE kit on a day other than Tuesday or Thursday you will need to send one in with them.

All that leaves me to say is if you have any queries, concerns or just want to chat please either email admin@bentley-st-pauls.essex.sch.uk who will be happy to pass on your message, call the office or catch me on the gate at the end of the day, where I will be more than happy to help in whichever possible.

We look forward to seeing you at 'Meet the Teacher' afternoon on Thursday 11th September. Thank you for a brilliant start to the year, I am super excited and cannot wait to watch our first term together unfold!

The Year 1 Team - Miss Buckingham, Mrs Conway and Mrs Williams