ST. PAUL'S
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

YEAR 1 – PARENT GUIDE

Working together for a successful transition

Moving from Reception to Year 1 is an exciting milestone. Whilst Year 1 introduces a more structured school day, we ensure the transition is smooth, supportive and filled with engaging learning experiences.

STARTING YEAR 1

Moving from EYFS to KS1
Children move from the Early Years Foundation Stage to the statutory Key Stage 1 curriculum.

Introduction of subject lessons
Children will experience new subjects such as History, Computing and D.T. for the first time.

Structured weekly timetable
Children follow a clear timetable so they know what to expect each day.

Active and practical learning continues
Lessons are taught through active, imaginative activities and plenty of movement breaks.

A supportive transition
Children may feel a little more tired during the first few weeks as they adapt to new routines.

BUILDING INDEPENDENCE

In Year 1 children will be encouraged to:

- Enter school independently through Mary's Door.
- Hang up coats and organise belongings.
- Manage water bottles and equipment.
- Use the toilets independently.
- Complete homework routines.
- Take responsibility for reading books and belongings.
- Build confidence and resilience.
- Develop positive learning habits.

OUR AIM IS TO HELP EVERY CHILD:

- Become confident learners
- Make positive choices
- Grow in independence
- Feel happy and secure in Year 1

WHAT STAYS THE SAME?

Daily phonics
Daily 30-minute Read Write Inc. phonics sessions (Mon – Thurs).

Reading for pleasure
Children continue to bring home a reading book every Friday.

Handwriting scheme
The handwriting scheme used in Reception continues in Year 1.

Behaviour system
Our behaviour and reward system remains the same across school.

Weekly homework
One 20-minute task set on Wednesday and due back the following Monday.

SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION

Move-Up Afternoon
Children spend a special afternoon in their new classroom with their new teacher.

Familiar faces
Many children already know their Year 1 teachers from assemblies, church services and phonics groups.

Staff handover
Reception and Year 1 teachers work closely together to align the curriculum and hand over all information.

Ready for Year 1 assessments
Children are fully prepared for the Phonics Screening Check through their ongoing work in Read Write Inc.

DAILY ROUTINES

Morning (8:45am – 9:00am)

- Arrive between 8:45am – 9:00am.
- Enter through Mary's Door.
- Children go straight to class.
- 15 minutes of quiet time to settle, enjoy a simple activity and relax before registration.

Playtimes & Lunch

- Morning break (10:45am): 15 minutes with fruit snack provided.
- Lunchtime: Eat in the dining hall followed by a one-hour playtime.
- Afternoon break (2:00pm): 15 minutes to stretch and play.
- Children use the KS1 playground and field.

End of the Day
Children are collected from the Year 1 classroom doors, located opposite the silver birch tree and the story circle.

COMMUNICATION WITH TEACHERS

After school
Teachers are available for a quick chat at the end of the day, when they do not have a prior meeting or commitment.

Email
For more detailed inquiries, please email the school office.

Response time
Teachers aim to reply to emails within 5 working days.

HELPING YOUR CHILD AT HOME

- Label all uniform, coats, bags and water bottles clearly.
- Provide a named messy-play shirt.
- Encourage children to organise their own belongings and take responsibility for them.
- Support independence and celebrate their achievements – every step builds their confidence!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Working together we can ensure your child has a happy, successful start to Year 1 at St. Paul's.