



St. William of York Catholic Primary School

Brockley Park, Forest Hill, London SE23 1PS

Tel: 020 8690 2842

Email: admin@swoy.lewisham.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs Hayley Mayers Admin Officer: Mrs Joanne Roper

Acting Deputy Head: Ms Zoe Thorn

17th September 2025

Dear Parents/carers,

On behalf of the Year 1 team, I would like to welcome you all back to school and wish you a very happy new year. I would also like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you for your cards and very generous gifts.

The Spring Term topics for Year 1 are 'Let's Go to China' and 'Spread the Word'. Through our History and Geography sessions, the children will look at the location of China as well as some of the traditions and celebrations. This is such a fun topic which I'm sure the children will enjoy immensely.

Homework will continue to be set every Friday and should be completed by the following Wednesday. Spellings, Mathletics and Numbots will be set via the Purple Mash homework blog. Last term, I noticed that quite a few children were not accessing the blog so please do support your children in completing homework every week. You will also be able to find out what your child has been learning in school that week and be better able to support them at home. Children will need to learn to count in 2s, 5s and 10s fluently this year, so please practise these with them whenever you can and keep practising those crucial number bonds! We are aiming for speed and accuracy.

Your child will continue to bring home a reading pack each Friday containing two phonics-based books and a picture book for you to read to your child. The phonics books are designed to help your child develop the skill of decoding, but it is reading picture books to your child that will help foster a real love for reading so please don't skip that step or expect your child to read the books themselves. Please make sure you return complete reading packs the following Thursday. Thank you.

Year 1 will have PE on **Wednesday** and **Thursday**. Bring PE kits in every Monday and they will be returned on Thursdays for washing. All items need to be named. Children with pierced ears must not wear earrings on PE days as jewellery is not permitted during PE lessons. Please do encourage your child to get used to removing and putting on their clothes independently so we can spend less time getting changed.

Ms Thorn will continue to teach Year 1 on Fridays and Mr Kane will support children in class. Please do not hesitate to speak to me if you have any concerns or queries. You may contact me via the school office or send an email directly to gmeara@swoy.lewisham.sch.uk.

Yours Sincerely,

Gabrielle Meara
Yr1 Class Teacher

English

This term the children will continue to develop their phonics and reading skills through the Read, Write, Inc programme. They will learn grammar and spelling, and to develop comprehension skills through texts, including 'The Magic Paintbrush' by Julia Donaldson, versions of Goldilocks, *The Lonely Beast* by Chris Judge, 'The Jolly Postman' by Allan Ahlberg and 'Meerkat Mail' by Emily Gravett.

They will continue to develop their ability to write meaningful sentences, with capital letters and simple punctuation, for a range of purposes.

Maths

The children will continue using the White Rose Maths scheme. They will use their knowledge of number to 10, to progress to adding and subtracting within 20. They will also develop place value with numbers to 50. They will solve one step problems that involve addition and subtraction. Later in term, the children will begin to count in multiples of twos, fives and tens.

They will explore a range of measurement, including length, height, weight and volume.

History

The children will learn about a Chinese Emperor from the past and key Chinese traditions and celebrations such as Lunar New Year. Later they find out what parliament is and the role of The Prime Minister.

Geography

This term, children will learn about maps. They will explore what a map is and how they are used. They will draw maps of familiar places. The children will learn about the location of China as well as some key natural and human features.

Science

This term, the children will continue to observe changes across the four seasons and describe weather associated with Winter and Spring.

In their topic on 'Animals', they will learn about how animals can be grouped and to identify common features of animals belonging to each group. Later they will explore ways we care for our planet and why it is important.



Year 1 Spring Term 2025

Topics: Let's Go to China! & Spread the Word

Teachers: Gabrielle Meara and Zoe Thorn

ICT

This term, children will use Purple Mash software. They will learn to log on and to save their work. They will be exploring programmes such as 2GO to begin to understand directions and 2 Create to explore programming B Bots. They will also use simple word processing programmes to produce their own work.

PE

The Children will have outdoor PE lessons to develop their games skills and to build stamina and keep healthy. They will focus on basketball and gain basic orienteering skills. During indoor PE children will explore movement and dance. The children will learn to travel in a variety of ways and to sequence movements.

Art & DT

This term the children will continue to explore a range of mediums with a focus on watercolour. They will use paint to explore the willow tree pattern story and to produce cherry blossom scrolls. They will learn about the artist Etel Adnan and her work using print. When painting and collaging, the children will also use their knowledge of the seasons to inspire their work.

RE

This term we will be thinking about special people and special meals, including the Last Supper. We will also be focusing on Change, leading up to Lent and Easter and reading related stories.

PSHE

Through story times and assemblies children will explore ways of giving, being thankful for everything that they have and the importance of community.