



Year 1 Information 2026-27



Welcome to Year 1! We have had a good start to the new school year, getting to know your children. We hope that this information leaflet helps you and your children settle into Year 1 quickly.

The Year 1 Team

Mrs McFarland -Class Teacher = 1 St George and Key Stage One Leader

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Mrs Hayward- Class Teacher – 1 St Teresa (Mon – Tues)

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Mrs Fairbanks - Class Teacher – 1 St Teresa (Weds – Fri)

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End of Day Collection

The gates open at 3.08pm and we respectfully request that parents are off site by 3.20pm at the latest. The collection point for Year 1 is in the KS1 playground, near the KS1 door. Collection time is 3.10pm.

At the end of the day, please wait in the KS1 playground and the children will be dismissed individually at 3.10pm. At 3.15pm any uncollected pupils are taken to the Office by their teacher, where a phone call is made whilst the children wait. Late pick up is recorded.

School Uniform / PE kits / Forest School clothes

Please ensure you support the school uniform policy as found on the school website. Please note that children should wear: grey smart bottoms (not jogger material) and grey socks (white socks may be worn with summer dresses). PE bottoms must be plain navy blue e.g. plain navy-blue shorts or plain navy-blue tracksuit bottoms. PE t-shirts must be worn. These are pale blue and non-branded.

Shoes or trainers should be black in their entirety e.g. no white logos or soles. Fashion shoes or boots are not permitted. Any trainers can be worn on PE days. Plimsolls can be worn inside for dance and gymnastics or children can have bare feet. Please make sure all clothing items are named.

Second-hand uniform can be bought very reasonably through the PTA Seconds Shop and this will usually run the last week of every half term. We expect all children to have the full uniform and children representing the school will need to be dressed as noted above.

Where a child is not wearing the correct school uniform, parents will be contacted to see how we can support. Please contact us if you feel you need financial support to provide correct uniform for your child.

Please ensure that all items are labelled. Any named items that are left around the school will be returned to the child's class, any un-named items will be given to the PTA Seconds Shop – this includes shoes and coats.

Bags

In Year 1 we ask that the children bring a small bag to school. If using a Cottesmore branded bag, we suggest the rectangular book bag which fits inside your child's tray.

PE Days

Children should come to school dressed in PE Kit on these days

Year 1 St George – Outdoor PE – Tuesday Indoor PE – Friday

Year 1 St Teresa – Outdoor PE – Thursday Indoor PE – Friday

Forest School

Year 1 will have Forest School sessions every other week, on Wednesdays. This will start on Weds 16th Sept for 1 St Teresa, and Weds 23rd September for 1 St George.

Children should wear their PE kits for all Forest School sessions. Wellies and waterproofs will be needed if the weather is wet, and coats if it is cold. Please check the weather forecast on Forest School Days.

Trips and Events

Autumn events – Harvest Liturgy (16th October) and Christmas Liturgy (17th December)

- **Pantomime Visits School (10th Dec)**

Spring events – Trip to Arundel Castle (22nd April)

- **Mary Mass and Picnic (21st May)**

Summer events – Phonics Screening check – national assessment, week beginning 14th June

Snacks / Water

A fruit snack is provided for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, at first break. Children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 are invited to bring in their own healthy snack. A reminder that the school is nut free and no snacks (or lunch items) should contain nuts as some children, within the school, have severe allergies to nuts. Please be mindful that some snacks may have Nutella or similar in them which isn't permitted. Whilst sesame products aren't prohibited at school, we also ask that, where possible, families reconsider sending in items with sesame for break and lunch as some children have allergies to sesame.

Children should bring a water bottle to school each day, containing water only.

At our school, we believe it's important to approach food and nutrition in a positive and balanced way. We understand that developing a healthy relationship with food is just as important as making nutritious choices, and we fully support the idea that no food is inherently "bad." Instead, it's about moderation, balance, and making choices that support wellbeing. With that in mind, we encourage snacks that help fuel your child's body and mind for learning. For example, foods like a slice of malt loaf, banana, carrot sticks, oat bars or something that can offer slow-release energy and help children stay focused and engaged. In contrast, snacks such as chocolate or crisps, while suggested to be fine as occasional snacks may lead to a quick spike in blood sugar or leave children still feeling hungry and offer less fuel, making it harder to settle into lessons afterwards. Therefore, any breaktime snacks such as these will be asked to be put back into book bags and eaten at home. Children can bring ONE snack for morning play (KS2) and one snack for afternoon play (KS1). Children in KS1 have a school provided fruit snack for morning play.

Packed lunches

For ideas for healthier packed lunches and snacks, please see guidance from the NHS who, for example, suggest that crisps in packed lunches are reduced and swapped for homemade plain popcorn or plain rice cakes instead. Whilst crisps can be a feature in packed lunches at Cottesmore, we encourage alternative options. However, we will leave that to parents' discretion. The NHS also suggests that families swap cakes, chocolate, cereal bars and biscuits for fruited teacakes, fruit breads or fruit (fresh, dried or tinned, in in juice not syrup) but we will also leave that to parents' discretion as part of packed lunches. However, items such as doughnuts, sweets and pure chocolate bars are not able to be part of lunchboxes. <https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

All of the puddings provided by Caterlink have no more than 4g of sugar per portion and all meet the school food guidelines for a healthy meal. Within their cakes and cookies, they include wholemeal flour to add fibre to the children's diet and have a number of puddings that include fruit and vegetables as well as offering daily yoghurt and fruit instead.

Phones

A reminder that our school is smartphone free. We ask that parents support this and don't use their phones whilst on the school site. Therefore, can all phone calls, texting and browsing take place outside the school gates and phones remain out of sight whilst dropping off or picking up children.

Homework

All homework is set on Seesaw, every Friday.

Weekly homework comprises of core tasks and optional tasks. All children are required to complete core tasks. Core tasks include spellings, times tables (or number bonds for younger children), daily reading and phonics for those in lower KS1.

Optional tasks do not need to be completed and are only there for those families who request more (some do!). These include a half termly menu of writing activities, My Maths online activities and half termly further maths recall facts. If children would like further challenges, they can complete the Headteacher's Challenge, which is signposted on the Year Group pages on the school's website and parents / carers can also contact class teachers for reading comprehension activities.

Year group pages on the school website also offer a range of activities that you can complete as well as list of additional spellings, books that can be read etc.

If your child is off track in any area, then we will talk to you about and extra homework can be set if requested.

Daily home reading will start on **Monday 14th September**. Reading Journals are checked every Monday morning and new books issued weekly for KS1 and fortnightly for KS2.

Weekly homework will begin on **Friday 4th September** and will be checked weekly by teachers.

Reading

We would expect that all children read daily at home. All educational research highlights the huge importance of daily reading in terms of reading fluency, comprehension, vocabulary and background knowledge development. See below the expectations for reading for each year group.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2	10 minutes of reading aloud to an adult. Twice weekly phonics video lessons.
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It is also strongly encouraged that time is spent daily reading to your child so that correct intonation and pace can be modelled.

Each pupil is provided with a Reading Folder which they are expected to take home and bring into school daily.

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KS1 - For children in KS1, this Reading Folder will consist of a Reading Journal, a reading book for pleasure and a level-appropriate book which is either linked to their Phonics learning or is at their reading level using banded book levels.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead! We are looking forward to helping your child flourish.

Please remember to keep us informed of any updates with regards to family circumstances, medical needs or otherwise. Our door is always open and we can't wait to get to know you and the children more.

Many thanks

The Year 1 Team