



St. Lawrence Primary School

La Grande Route de St Laurent
St Lawrence
Jersey
JE3 1NG

Telephone: 01534 863172
Nursery: 01534 865524
Email: admin@stlawrence.sch.je



Year 1 – Autumn Term 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you have all had a restful Summer break. I am very much looking forward to working with your children and welcoming them into their new classroom and routines for Year 1. This newsletter gives an outline of some of the curriculum plans for the Autumn Term as well as general information about classroom routines and expectations.

Curriculum Information:

The Key Stage One curriculum is a statutory document followed by Years 1 and 2. The Jersey curriculum sets out what must be taught in Maths, English and Science lessons which will take up a substantial part of a child's learning week. Alongside these are other 'foundation subjects': Art, Computing, Design and Technology, Geography, History, Music, PSHE (including Citizenship), Physical Education as well as Religious Education.

[5 to 11 year olds: key stages 1 and 2 curriculum \(gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/key-stage-1-curriculum)

English

Read, Write, Inc. takes place daily and incorporates writing, comprehension and letter formation skills as well as developing reading. Children are assessed regularly and are then placed in groups according to their needs. All staff have completed the Read, Write, Inc training and each staff member takes a group in the morning. Please could you ensure that your child brings their RWI folders into school every Monday as these are when the books are changed (library books are also bought in on Mondays). Please could you ensure that the RWI books



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are kept within the clear folders as the children take only the clear folders with them to their RWI lesson (not their green folder).

In Writing sessions, the children will be working on developing their letter formation skills, looking at sentence structure, punctuation, applying their R.W.I. skills to writing and writing a variety of sentences.

Mathematics

At St Lawrence School, we follow the White Rose Maths Scheme. This scheme focuses on developing a deep understanding and mastery of number. The children will be focusing on number, place value and addition and subtraction. It is important to ensure that your child can work with numbers to 10 before they move onto 20 and beyond, for example, knowing number bonds to ten at speed. Each half term a letter will be sent home detailing which fluency skills to work on at home. These are key mathematical areas in the Year 1 curriculum which need continuous practice and consolidation. The Fluency Policy is on our school website and has all the information you need. It is organised by Year group and has activities for each term:

<https://www.stlawrence.sch.je/wp-content/uploads/Fluency-Policy-November-2022.pdf>

There is also a calculation policy that shows you the strategies we teach the children for the four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division):

Addition and Subtraction: [PowerPoint Presentation \(whiteroseeducation.com\)](https://www.whiteroseeducation.com)

Multiplication and Division: [PowerPoint Presentation \(whiteroseeducation.com\)](https://www.whiteroseeducation.com)

Science

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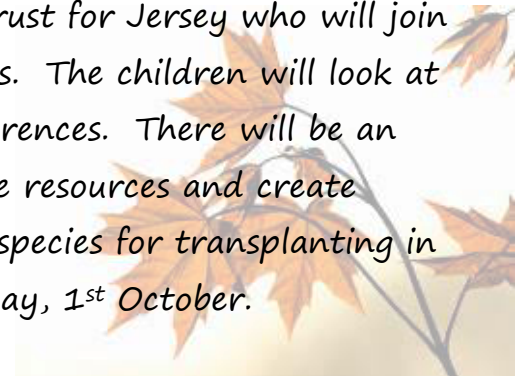
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This term our topic is 'Animals, including Humans'. The children will be taught to:

- identify and name a variety of common animals;
- describe and compare the structure of a variety of common animals;
- identify, name, draw and label the basic parts of the human body;
- say which part of the body is associated with each sense.

I have booked a 'Classifications' workshop at Jersey Zoo to support learning in this topic and this will take place on Wednesday, 13th November. This will be a 'hands-on' session where children will work in groups and sort different animal body coverings according to 'fur', 'scales' or 'feathers.' The groups will be encouraged to present their findings to the other children. School uniform is to be worn and children will be transported via coach and will be back in time for usual pick-up time.

We will also be looking at seasonal changes and part of this will include a workshop delivered by the Education Officer from the National Trust for Jersey who will join us at school and teach the children about different trees. The children will look at leaves, take bark and leaf rubbings and discuss the differences. There will be an opportunity for the children to gather their own nature resources and create nature Art before collecting and growing a native tree species for transplanting in National Trust woodland. This will take place on Tuesday, 1st October.



History (first half term)

In History this term, the children will be learning about the Ice Age in Jersey.

Children will look at the timeline of events and identify the Ice Age on our large playground timeline. They will find out how Jersey became an island, and which animals lived in Jersey during the Ice Age. The children will then move on to looking at who lived during the Ice Age, and which tools were used during the Ice Age. They will make their own tools using clay and will use different spices to create their own cave paintings. We will be welcoming the Education Officers from the Jersey Heritage Team who will be delivering three workshops in school as



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follows:

Workshop 1 – Animals of the Ice Age – 10th September

Workshop 2 – People of the Ice Age – 17th September

Workshop 3 – Tools of the Ice Age – 24th September.

If your child has any allergies to any spices or similar, please let me know.

Geography (second half term)

In Geography during the latter part of this term, children will be exploring their local area. They will be locating Jersey on a map and on a globe and using Google Earth to explore Jersey and St Lawrence. The children will be labelling the twelve parishes on a map of Jersey and will be learning about the story of St Lawrence. We will take a walk around the local area and will be finding out about geographical human and physical features on our walk before creating a simple map of our walk once back in the classroom.

P.E.

Our PE days are Thursdays and Fridays this term. We will be working with the 'Sports Bug' team on Thursdays and then PE sessions on Fridays will be based around Gymnastics for the first half term and Dance for the second half term. In addition to this, we are hoping to take part in the 'Bikeability' initiative through Jersey Sport, whereby children have the opportunity to develop the skills of steering, bike control, balance, spatial awareness, co-ordination, scooting and gliding.

R.E.

This term in Religious Education, the children will be learning about the Christian story of Creation and exploring what the story tells Christians about God, Creation and the World. During the second part of the term, the children will be finding out what Christmas means to Christians and will learn about the story

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of the Nativity. We hope to take part in a 'Messy Church' afternoon at St Lawrence Church which will be craft-based and will support the children's learning around the story of Christmas.

We also welcome the 'Open the Door' team every fortnight on a Monday afternoon. The team share stories from the Bible in a fun, interactive way to the children – through puppets, songs and dances.

Computing

This half term the children will be looking at computing systems and networks ('Technology around us') and will be finding out what technology is and naming parts of a PC, netbook and iPad. The second part of the Autumn term will focus on Digital Painting where children will have the opportunity to develop their mouse control skills and media skills, linking the use of simple paint programmes to their work in Art.

Art

The first half term will be based around the theme of 'Spirals.' Children will use chalks, graphite pens, pastels, water-soluble pens and collage materials to experiment with spirals. They will be looking at the work of artists Molly Haslund and Kandinsky and recording their work in Art Sketchbooks.

The second part of the term will be based around simple Printmaking and children will be exploring simple ways to make a print using line, shape, colour and texture to explore pattern, sequencing and symmetry.



Design and Technology

The focus will be on junk modelling this term, with children creating their own designs before building them. Children will identify and record the resources they need and will use a range of joining techniques to make their model before evaluating the finished product.

I am excited that Year 1 are also taking part in a new initiative this year

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delivered by the 'Caring Cooks' team. 'Let's Get Cooking' will take place on Wednesday mornings during the first half of the Autumn term, with children working in small groups to prepare, make and taste a series of simple recipes such as pasta salad and fruit kebabs.

Music

The learning intentions in our Music sessions this term will be to teach the children to find and keep a steady beat, to explore simple rhythm patterns by encouraging children to copy back simple long and short rhythms with clapping, to have fun warming up their faces, bodies and voices and to copy back singing simple high and low patterns.

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education

During the first part of the term, our theme in PSHE is based around physical health and wellbeing. Children will learn about food that is associated with special times in different cultures, about active playground games from around the world and about sun safety.

The second part of the term will be based around keeping safe and managing risk. Children will learn about safety in familiar situations, about personal safety and about people who help keep them safe outside the home.

General notes about daily routines:

Arriving at school (from 8:30am) – The children are dropped at the bottom of the driveway where they are greeted by Sean, our caretaker. The children then make their way independently to the Year 1 classroom via the hall doors. When they arrive, they put their lunchboxes on the trolley, coats on pegs, mid-morning snacks and water bottles in the box in the classroom and their green reading folders in drawers. Please note that your child's reading folder is the same as the one they had in Reception as they need to fit in the trays. The green

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rucksacks are only permitted from Year 3 upwards due to space constraints. If your child attends our Breakfast Club, they will be brought to the classroom at 8:30am.

End of day – If your child attends any of the sports clubs, please let me know via email so that I can ensure that they get to the right place at the end of the day. We have a storage basket just outside the classroom for kit bags.

What to bring to school – Your child will need their lunchbox, two named water bottles (one in their lunchbox and one to be stored in the classroom) and a green reading folder. After-school sports kits can be stored in a basket near the classroom.

Lunch– The children eat their lunch in the hall between 12 – 12:30pm, as they did in Reception. Lunchtime play takes place between 12:30 – 1pm before children come in for afternoon lessons.

Classroom environment – Our classroom is set out in such a way that I am able to teach small groups as well as whole-class. There are different provision areas around the classroom such as construction areas, writing tables, art spaces, a book corner, a Science area, a Maths area and these can be accessed by the children at different times of the day. The areas will be adapted according to the children's needs and to meet different curriculum expectations as we progress through the year.

Personal items – Please ensure your child does not bring in any personal objects such as toys or jewellery as we cannot be responsible for such items and they can be distracting for the children and their friends. Please ensure coats, uniform, water bottles and snack pots are named. This helps us return any found items to the correct person. If you are missing an item, let me know and I will do my best to locate it.

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Equipment – The children do not need to bring pencil cases or pens from home as the stationary they need is provided in class. We have a tray for water bottles in the class so that the children can stay hydrated during the day. They can re-fill this at the sink, if required. The children have access to their water bottles all day.

Email – I do not always get the opportunity to access my emails during the day. I aim to respond to emails as often as I can, but during the day meeting the needs of the class is my priority. If you have any worries or concerns that need addressing quickly, please contact the school office.

House points – Children will be awarded house points for demonstrating the 'core values' of the school. These are Success, Independence and Responsibility. If your child has achieved something outside of school, please feel free to email me, perhaps with a photo, as we would love to celebrate it in school.

Facebook – I will try to regularly put photos on Facebook, so you can see what your child has been up to. I am aware that some children do not have permission for photos on Facebook. If your child was not on Facebook in Reception and you would like to give permission, then please let me know and I can send a form home.

Assessments / Feedback – All children are assessed for RWI phonics regularly, over the year. In Maths and Reading the children complete half-termly assessments. In Writing, the children write one piece of unaided writing, every half term which is then assessed against the Year 1 criteria.

Parent consultations take place in the Autumn and Summer terms and there is a written report outlining your child's progress in the Spring Term. If you wish to meet with me any other times, please email so that we can arrange a mutually-convenient time to meet.

Allergies – If your child has any allergies, please email our secretary to let school know. I have been given a list of allergies that are on the school system,

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but sometimes these change and I wish ensure that everything is up to date.

Staffing

Mrs Banks – Y1 class teacher / Foundation Stage Coordinator / Maths Coordinator / Computing Coordinator / Senior Leadership Team

Mrs Bugbird – Y1 Teaching Assistant / ELSA support / WellComm Leader (developing communication skills across the Early Years) / Peer Mediator

Mrs Dowdeswell, Mrs Langlois, Mrs Caviglione, Mrs Bugbird are our lunchtime staff and they all support the Y1 children during lunchtimes.

Homework

It is very helpful if children are able to read with an adult at least four or five times a week, for about 10 minutes each time. Asking questions about the story will help develop your child develop their comprehension skills and will ensure that they have a good understanding of the text. Please encourage your child to point to the text and 'sound out' words when they get stuck. The words that cannot be blended are known as 'red' words (e.g. some) – these are the words the children need to learn to read by sight. If your child is not yet reading at this level, please could you read to them and encourage them to look at the print and identify the sounds / words that they do know.

We will visit the school library every Monday. Children will be able to talk about the book that they are returning before selecting new books to bring home. These books are intended for adults to read to the child and will help develop vocabulary range and comprehension skills.

Spelling words are taught in class and are based around the high frequency words for Year 1. Please click on the link below to see these words:

[CommonExceptionWords Y1.pdf \(oxfordowl.co.uk\)](#)

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Elf Day

In December, the children will create a variety of Christmas-themed craft objects to sell to the rest of the school. The funds raised will be donated to Dementia Jersey. The children will be able to come to school dressed as elves or wearing red/green or festive clothing if they wish. Year 2 join us with this activity so if you are purchasing an elf costume, you may like to get one that may fit next year too ! I will send out more information regarding dates nearer the time.

Ways to help at home

If you would like to help your child at home then here are some ideas:

Ordering sets of number cards in sequence to 10, 20, then 100;

Simple Mathematical card games: [11 Fun + easy cards games for kids and adults!](#)
[- It's Always Autumn \(itsalwaysautumn.com\)](#)

Reading with children to help them read and spell unknown words (using the Spelling sheet in the link provided above);

Recognising and writing their surnames as well as forenames;

Playing games that encourage turn taking and sharing (Orchard Games have a huge range of very appropriate games);

Independently changing, including putting socks on;

Independently opening packets and peeling fruit;

Learning how to tie shoelaces if your child has shoes with laces.

The White Rose scheme offers short teaching videos for parents to play to their children to help consolidate Maths skills at home. The videos can be downloaded via the following link: <https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths/home-learning?year=year-1-new> (Click on 'view' within each topic box).

In addition to this, there are free downloadable booklets available via the following link: <https://whiteroseeducation.com/parent-pupil-resources/maths/free->

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[downloads](#) I have had positive feedback from parents in relation to these booklets. Once children have completed a booklet, they can bring them into school to earn house points to celebrate their achievements.

Our Shared Learning afternoon will take place on Wednesday, 23rd October and parents will be invited in from 2:00pm to look at children's books and files and find out what they have been up to.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me so that we can arrange a mutually-convenient time to meet.

Kind regards,

Mrs Banks

k.banks@stlawrence.sch.je

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