



Friday 4th September 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Year 1!

We hope you had a wonderful summer break and are looking forward to the year ahead. We are delighted to welcome our families back to Year 1 and are excited to begin another year of learning, discovery and growth together.

Year 1 is an important step in your child's learning journey as we build on the strong foundations established in Reception. Throughout the year, we will encourage the children to become increasingly independent, **resilient** and **confident** learners through a range of exciting and engaging experiences. Please see our Topic Web to find out more about what your child will be learning across the curriculum this term.

As members of the **St Francis of Assisi Class**, we will also celebrate the virtues associated with St Francis, including caring for others, showing kindness, respecting God's creation and living with gratitude. Throughout the year, we will encourage the children to demonstrate these qualities both inside and outside the classroom.

This term, the children will continue to develop their reading, writing and mathematics skills whilst exploring a range of exciting topics across the wider curriculum. We will encourage them to ask questions, think deeply, solve problems and develop a lifelong love of learning.

To help your child have a successful year, please ensure that:

- Reading books and reading records are brought to school each day.
- All items of uniform and belongings are clearly named.
- Your child arrives at school on time each morning.
- PE kit is worn to school on the appropriate days (Tuesday and Friday).
- Regular reading is encouraged at home.

- Homework is completed by Wednesdays each week. Homework will be set on TEAMS on a Friday and will have either a Maths or English focus. Please contact the Admin Team via email (admin@st-josephs.gloucs.sch.uk) if you are having problems accessing TEAMS. Homework that is not submitted by the Wednesday may not be marked.

We would like to warmly invite all Year 1 parents and carers to our **Phonics Information Evening**, where we will provide an overview of our **Unlocking Letters and Sounds (ULS)** phonics programme and explain how phonics is taught and assessed throughout Year 1. This will be on Tuesday 22nd September 2026 at 7.15pm. We will also share information about the **Year 1 Phonics Screening Check**, including what the check involves, how children are prepared for it in school, and ways you can support your child's reading and phonics development at home. This will be an excellent opportunity to see the resources and strategies we use in class, ask any questions you may have, and work together to help your child become a confident and successful reader. We look forward to seeing you there.

Reading is one of the most important skills children develop in Year 1, and regular opportunities to read with adults can make a huge difference to their confidence, fluency and enjoyment of books. We are always grateful for parent volunteers who can spare a little time to listen to children read. By reading regularly with the children, you help to build their confidence, encourage a love of reading and provide valuable one-to-one support that enables them to make even greater progress. If you are able to volunteer, even for a short period each week, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact us directly if this is something you are able to help us with.

We value the strong partnership between home and school and believe that children thrive when we work together. If you have any questions, concerns or information that may help us support your child, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Either myself or Mrs Hannon will be on the playground at the end of each day.

Thank you for your continued support. We are looking forward to a happy, successful and faith-filled year ahead, helping every child to grow in **confidence** and reach their full potential.

With best wishes,

Mrs Natalie Guoitte and Mrs Denise Hannon
Year 1 Class Teachers