



SHENFIELD ST MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

HALL LANE SHENFIELD BRENTWOOD CM15 9AL
(A member of the Mid Essex Anglican Academy Trust)

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Year 1!

We hope you had a good summer and are ready for the new adventures and challenges of Year 1. The children have settled well and have begun to adapt to life in Year 1, although they are a little tired at the end of each day.

Our topic for this term is "Toy Story". Through a variety of curriculum areas, we will explore toys of today and from the past, how they work, materials used to make them and make comparisons between our toys and toys from around the world. We will begin with our Stunning Starter on Thursday 15th September by inviting our teddies to a picnic and when we will involve them in lots of activities and have a fun day with them in class. We celebrate our topic by enjoying the 'Toy Story' film and link it in with our class writing. We also have a trip planned on Monday 10th October to Valance House Museum to find out about toys from the past, explore the museum and make a peg doll. There will be more information on this closer to the time.

PE

Butterfly Class has PE on Monday and Wednesday and Bumblebee Class on Monday and Friday. Please ensure that children with earrings are either not wearing them on PE days or are able to remove them, as they cannot wear them during PE sessions for health and safety reason. The children will need a pair of black trainers with them in school so that we can do the Daily Mile. They will wear their school shoes on PE days and change into trainers for lessons. This means that they must be able to change their own shoes independently so please make sure they are not shoes with laces.

Reading Books

We are continuing to use the Little Wandle reading scheme which has been working well so far. The children will still have a daily phonics session and will read with an adult in a small group two to three times a week. Each session will focus on different reading skills using the same book and this will come home for them to read confidently to you! They will also bring home a phonics book to practise with and a non-fiction and a story book to share with you. These books are to enjoy reading and discussing together and are not necessarily for your child to read. Reading books will be changed weekly and it is particularly important that the group reading books come back to school on time as another group may need them. Please read regularly with your child and record in reading record.

Phonics, Spellings and Homework.

This half term we will be assessing the children's word recognition and phonic skills. The children will be supported with daily phonics sessions and they may have some spellings to learn related to the phonic sounds we are learning over time. This is to ensure the children begin to recognise spelling patterns and can write a greater variety of words independently. Through some homework activities on Google Classroom we will share the sounds and words we are learning in class. Please practise them regularly and play games with them making up real words but also made up words encouraging your child to sound out the words as they read them. Later in the term we will give a spelling list to learn for a test the following week. Homework will begin with simple games or tasks accessed through Google Classroom and projects will begin next half term.

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Class Pages and Google Classroom

We will be adding to our class pages some photos of the activities the children have participated in. Google Classroom will be used for homework once it begins. Any messages will be sent out via the school office e-mail address and we will try and let you know of any events in plenty of time.

If you have any questions, then the best way to contact us is via the school email address and any queries will be passed on.

Thank you for all your patience and support.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs James and Miss Peck