



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 are beginning with our Stunning Starter on Friday 8th September by inviting our teddies to a picnic and when we will involve them in lots of activities. 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 16th October to Valence 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

Both classes will have outdoor PE on Tuesdays and indoor PE on Fridays. Please ensure that children with earrings are not wearing them on PE days, as they cannot wear them during P.E sessions for health and safety reasons. The children will need a pair of black trainers with them in school so that we can do the Daily Mile. They can 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. 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 their reading record.

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Phonics, Spellings and Homework

Homework will be set through Google Classroom and will be a mixture of games and tasks to consolidate learning in school. There will also be some long-term projects to complete over several weeks. Later this term we will start to set some spellings for the children to learn for a short test in school and these words will also be set over Google Classroom. These will be tricky words or related to the phonics sounds we are learning over time to help the children begin to recognise spelling patterns and write a greater variety of words independently.

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 & Mrs Ward