



St. Walburga's Catholic Primary School

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Headteacher: Veronica Woodward

1st September 2026

Welcome to Year 1

Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to welcome you and your child to Year 1. In 1EM, your class teacher is Miss McGuinness and your teaching assistants are Mrs Glackin and Mrs Thenin. In 1WH, your class teachers are Mrs Welch (Monday – Wednesday) and Mrs Hills (Thursday and Friday). Your teaching assistant is Mrs Beech.

We are really looking forward to getting to know you and working with you, so that we can build on the wonderful start the children have made in Foundation Stage.

We understand that the transition from a very play-based Reception class into Year 1 can seem rather scary and serious; however, we would like to reassure you that, whilst we do work hard, we also have lots of fun learning new things and improving our skills through our topic-based curriculum.

Here is a small flavour of some of the things we will be doing this year. Our topics will be 'Grandma's Toys', 'Winter Wonderland', 'Castles', 'Twisted Tales', 'Explorers' and 'The Great Outdoors'. Last year, the children particularly enjoyed our 'Happily Ever After' celebration and our trip to Portchester Castle.

In Year 1, our PE days are **Tuesday (indoor)** and **Friday (outdoor)** – please ensure your child comes to school wearing their PE kits on those days.

Each Friday, we will set the children a piece of Home Learning. This will usually be linked to our learning across the week and will often be an activity for you to support your child with at home. This will need to be returned by the following Thursday. Home Readers will be sent home on **Tuesday** (staged book) and **Friday** (staged book and a library book to share together), starting from next week.

We will set a weekly spelling list via Spelling Shed. Please note that these will **not** be tested in school. We will review the spellings daily in class and complete activities linked to the words each week. Your Spelling Shed log-in details can be found on your child's Home Reading Diary.

We know that going up to Year 1 is a big step but please be reassured that we spend the first half term transitioning between Reception and Year 1 and, although we know that some children can find it initially difficult, they all rise to the challenge!

There is an electronic reply slip that you will need to complete to acknowledge that you have read this letter. You will find this form by clicking on the link [Welcome to Year 1 2026 – Fill in form](#)

This will need to be completed by **Wednesday 9th September**, thank you.

If you have any concerns or queries please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office or at the end of the day after we have seen all the children out.

Best Wishes

E. McGuinness

A. Welch *eh*

Miss McGuinness
Year 1 Teachers

Mrs Welch/Mrs Hills