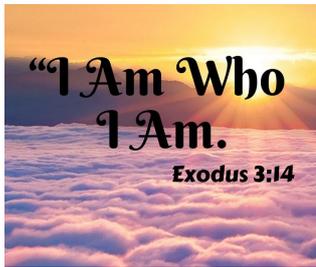




# Welcome to Year 1!

Miss Swaby

Autumn Term 2023



I would like to wish all of the families and children of Year 1 a very warm welcome! I hope that you all had a lovely summer holiday and are ready for the next academic year! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Miss Swaby and I am new to Blessed Robert. I am very grateful to have the privilege of being a part of your child's academic journey, and I look forward to working with you all.

Our theme for this year is 'I am who I am' Exodus 3:14. Within this we will explore how each and everyone of us is an important part of our school community and we should all be our true, unique and authentic selves, we are perfect just as we are.

RE is always at the heart of our learning. This term our RE topics are the following:

- **Families**

We will learn that everyone belongs to the family of God. We will talk about our own families and the differences between them. Children will understand that God loves and cares for us.

- **Belonging**

We will explore the different groups that we belong to. Children will learn that Baptism enables us to belong to God's family in a special way. We will visit the church to find out what happens during a Baptism.

- **Waiting**

We will learn that Advent is a time of waiting in joyful hope for Jesus. We will explore the story of Christingle and find out why God sent Jesus to us.

## Diary Dates:

**Mass of Welcome:** 21st  
September 2:00pm

**Parent Consultations:**  
17th October 4:00pm-7:00pm  
18th October 1:30pm-3:30pm

**Francis of Assisi Hub  
Mass:**

**Wednesday 6th October  
11:00am**

**Harvest Mass:**  
19th October 14:00pm

**Half Term:**  
23rd October– 3rd November

**Inset Day:**  
6th November

**Remembrance Liturgy:**  
9th November 10:50am

**Year 1 Nativity:**  
11th December

**Christmas Jumper day  
and Carols Around the  
Tree:**

19th December 2:30pm

**Advent Mass:**  
21st December 2:00pm

## Choose Courage Over Fear

Our theme for this term is: Choose courage over fear: How will you be brave this term?

Year 1 will start their journey by looking at **Grace Darling** who showed courage when she single handedly saved a group of sailors. They will use and develop their historical enquiry skills to research and discover more about her life and her achievements.

We will then turn our attention to the **continents and oceans**. We will be using globes and atlases to locate a number of countries and create keys to label our own maps. We will also look at using compass directions and coordinates to find locations.

In D&T sessions we will design and build different ships using a range of materials and techniques. We will then put them to the test as they set sail! Will they float or sink?

In art we will be focusing on **William Morris**. We will investigate how he printed patterns over 100 years ago and discover why they are still popular today. The children will also have the opportunity to develop their own prints, taking inspiration from the beauty of the nature we are surrounded by as well as the seas and oceans.

Our science lessons will focus on **everyday materials**. We will learn to distinguish between an object and the material it is made from. We will describe and categorise materials, explaining reasons for our groupings. In addition we will investigate

suitable materials for building and discuss why some of the three little pigs made very silly choices! We will also become weather detectives as we learn about the changing **seasons**.

Our English lessons will be full of exciting opportunities to explore the story of the Three Little Pigs in great detail. We will learn to retell this story with the help of Talk for Writing, innovating this story and then create our own. We will also focus on Non-fiction writing and poetry throughout the term. Our focus for the term will be handwriting, capital letters and full stops as well as writing in full sentences.

During weekly computing sessions, we will learn how to stay safe online and begin to log in to the PCs and select programs. We will also begin to learn typing skills.

Our maths focus for this term is number and place value to 10, adding and subtracting to 10, shape and finally number and place value to 20. We will be joined by some specialist music teachers from the Becket school throughout the duration of this year.

This term is going to be packed full of adventures and lots of exciting opportunities and learning. We can't wait to get started!

### Homework

Homework tasks will be given out every Friday. This will be spellings, number challenge, letter formation or a mini project to complete at home.

Please support your child in these tasks as they will consolidate our learning in the classroom. Spelling tests will take place on **Fridays**.

Mathletics logins are in your child's reading record.

### Notices:

**Uniform** - It is school policy that all hair longer than shoulder length must be tied up. Hair bobbles must be discreet and in school colours. No large bows or novelty hair bands please. Year 1 must wear a button down blouse or shirt, with a tie, unless they are wearing a summer dress. Trainers are not allowed, children are expected to wear school appropriate shoes.

**Reminder**—Mrs Head will teach Year 1 on Mondays.

### Reading Books

All children will be given a reading record, phonetically decodable book and library reading book. Please listen to your child read **everyday** and write a comment in their reading record. The library book is one to share and enjoy together. Your child is not expected to read this independently.

Children must bring in their reading books everyday. We have daily guided reading sessions and volunteers who listen to the children read.

Inside each reading record is a list of Year 1 common exception words. These words cannot be decoded using phonics. All children are expected to be able to **read and spell** all of these words by the end of the year. Please refer to this word list regularly in order to help your child learn them.

Reading books will be changed every **Monday**.

### PE

**Kit:** PE kits must be brought into school on Monday, If you take them home to wash, please ensure they come back to school. All earrings and Jewelry must be removed for PE lessons. If children are unable to do this independently then please remove them before the school day.

**Wednesday — Fitness skills (Outside)-** During cold weather children should wear trainers or plimsoles, plain joggings bottoms or leggings and a plain sweatshirt or hoodie.

During the warmer months children should wear a white t-shirt and black shorts.

**Wednesday —Dance (inside)**

Children should wear white t-shirts and black shorts (no stripes or logos).

And finally...if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to speak to me either before or after the school day. Alternatively please phone or email the office to arrange an appointment at a convenient time.

*I am looking forward to getting to know the children and can't wait to start this busy and exciting term ahead!*

*Miss Swaby*