

St George Class Newsletter

September 2020



Dear Parents,

Welcome to St George Class and your child's first half term in Reception although as I am sure you will appreciate some things are a lot different to normal!! This newsletter will hopefully give you a rough guide as to what will be happening throughout this half term. Most of this information was enclosed in the information letter you received in July, but if you have any questions please arrange to speak to myself or Mrs Parker at a convenient time as mornings can be very busy. Alternatively, we are happy to rearrange a telephone conversation.

Mornings

To encourage the children's independence we will be encouraging the children to put their own things away in the morning so that they know where to find things during the day. Remind them to move their name on the lunch register in the morning so they know if they are having a packed lunch or school dinner and to put their book bag in the correct St George themed box.

Free fruit is available on a daily basis which will be delivered in the next couple of weeks but if you would like them to have an additional healthy snack please make sure they know where it is so they can put it into their drawer. The children only have 15 minutes for break time so please just keep it to something small. Please make sure your child brings a water bottle to school on Monday mornings which we will send home on Friday. We will ensure these are readily available throughout the day and are topped up when needed from the water fountain. Juice is not allowed in classrooms and only in the hall at lunch times if you chose for your child to have a packed lunch. If your child is having a packed lunch please can you provide a separate drink that they can take with them at lunchtime as water bottles stay in the classroom. We also ask that filled water bottles do not go into book bags as they do have a tendency to leak over school books.

We have a blue book in the classroom in the register and letter tray. If there are changes in arrangements for home time please let us know when you drop your child off and we will write it in the book or telephone the office and Mrs Creasey will pass the message on. We must have your permission to release your child into the care of someone other than yourselves (even other family members). If you have forgotten to pass on a message and haven't remembered to phone school, then we will need to ring to confirm arrangements with you before we let the children go.

PE

Our PE will usually be on a Monday morning with NUFC and Wednesday afternoon so on these days children need to come to school wearing their PE kit. I do like to take the children outside for PE when the weather permits so please send a spare pair of shoes in a bag on PE days in case they need to be changed.



Wellies

Please send in some named wellies for your child and we will put them on the shelf. These will stay in school so we can use them daily. If they don't have wellies in school they could miss out on valuable learning experiences as we like to get outside regardless of the weather!

Reading

We will be sending home a shared reading book from the school library shortly. This is a book to read with your child, it is not a book that children are expected to read for themselves. Please spend time talking to your child about the story and focus on how the characters might be feeling.

We will begin to send home reading books which we will be given out on a Monday. Please send them back into school every Friday. This will allow time for the books to be quarantined ready to be changed on a Monday ready for the forthcoming week to practice at home. Initially it will not contain any words. Please encourage discussion of the 'story' and share ideas of what the characters might be saying, thinking, or feeling. Most books have some key questions included to explore with your child. It is a very important skill that children are able to remember what happens in a story and begin to retell with as much detail as possible without using the pictures as clues.

We will be starting our sound work this week, as we begin to follow the Read Write Inc phonics programme. The children will learn these very quickly, usually a sound a day followed by time practising to read words using the sounds they have learnt. They will receive a sheet for each day they learn a new sound showing how we teach the children to correctly form the letter(s) that make that sound. These will be sent out at the end of the week. I will send home a yellow folder to be kept at home so you can add these sheets to the folder to keep practicing. Once the children have learnt a few sounds we will start blending sounds together to read words which we will send out with instructions, these are called green words. The children **will not** be sent home books with words until they have learnt enough sounds and I feel they are ready to practice reading at home.

In addition to the green words we will quickly start to read and recognise high frequency words, words which appear regularly in stories and also 'red words' - words which can only be read and not sounded out. These will be sent out on flashcards to keep going over and practicing at home regularly.

We realise that we are sending out a lot of information at this time, please don't tackle everything at once. It is really important to read little and often with your child as the more they read the more they gain confidence and the quicker they will progress.

Topics

Over this half term we plan to learn about St George our class saint, all about me and the local environment. Depending on how interested the children are in the topics, we may lengthen or shorten them, in which case we could do more or less than those listed.



The first few days have been fantastic and we have all settled in really well! Photos are posted on Tapestry regularly so please make sure you log in frequently to see what we have been getting up to.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to let me know and we can arrange to have a chat. We are really looking forward to the forthcoming year working together.

Mrs Whaley and Mrs Parker