

St George Class Newsletter



Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a good half term holiday. The following is a rough guide as to what we will be looking at and what is happening this half term during the run up to Christmas. If you have any questions please ask and we will try our best to help.

Mornings

The children have settled into the routines and are keen to find an activity on one of the tables which are usually based around developing their fine motor skills. During this time, they are also able to access the continuous provision to complete their weekly rainbow challenges. In addition to this the children may be asked to come and complete small activities with me or Miss Smurthwaite so it is really important that the children are on time at 8.45am and put their things away quickly.

If children bring in a snack, could you please remind them before they come into school to put it in their drawer so they can get to it easily during the day rather than leaving it in their book bags. Fresh fruit is always available for snack time. The children have really enjoyed 'paying' for their snack (pretend money from school) and this term's focus will be on recognising 2p coins.

The children are becoming really independent so it would also help if they are encouraged to put hats, gloves and scarves in their drawers to get to easily at playtimes and **please make sure they are named**.

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 please telephone the office. Please remember 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 in the morning and haven't remembered to phone school, then we will need to ring to confirm arrangements with you before we let the children go. If it is going to be a regular arrangement where someone else will be picking up it would be a good idea to email the office or speak to Mrs Creasey so we have a record of it which will save you from ringing up every time.

PE

Our PE will usually be on a Monday morning with NUFC and Thursday 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.

We try and go down and work in the sensory garden on a Tuesday so please make sure children come to school wearing warm clothes.



Wellies

Thank you for sending in a named pair of wellies. We have put them to good use last half term and we will continue to use them when we go out for our outdoor learning sessions. If you think that your child may have grown out of the ones in school please ask us and we can send them home to check and you can replace them if needs be.

Reading and keywords

The children are enjoying their school reading books. It has been lovely to hear them share them so enthusiastically. We will still be changing books on a Friday and a comment is needed to let me know that they have read to you, in order for me to change their book. Please remember to send these in on a Thursday so they

can be changed ready for the weekend. Remember school is aiming for children to read at home at least 3 times per week so please try and ensure this happens. The children have made great progress already with their reading and recognition of sounds and sight words on the red cards. More of these will be sent home throughout the term to keep learning. It is still really important to encourage children to sound out words which they are unfamiliar with but starting to encourage them to recognise and read the ones they know quickly. This is a skill we will be practicing during Read Write Inc. this half term and the children will remember it as 'Fred in your head' as we want the children to become independent readers and not rely on sounding out everything they read.

The yellow handwriting folders which were given out last half term stay at home and any additional worksheets we send home can be added to this. Flash cards and high frequency words will be sent out at different times throughout the term which stay at home in the plastic wallet to be practiced regularly. We will be starting to learn to write the red words so they children can use these in their independent writing. We will not be doing a weekly spelling test but it would be really helpful if you could practise writing these on a regular basis as there is an expectation that they can spell these as the children move towards Year 1 later in the year.

It is very important that children write their letters correctly. The Read Write Inc. rhymes really help with this so please can you continue to encourage your children when they are writing that they are using the correct letter formation. It is a lot harder to 'unlearn' any misconceptions so this will continue to be a focus at school on a daily basis.

At times quite a few different things may be sent home all together. Please don't tackle everything at once. It is really important to read and practise key skills little and often. The more children practise, the more they gain confidence and the quicker they will progress.

Topics

Over this half term we will be covering the following themes, Bonfire Night, Guy Fawkes and Remembrance Day before moving onto reading different favourite stories as part of our literacy work. We will also be looking at seasonal changes and Christmas when the time comes and writing letters to Santa and visiting the village post box to send to Reindeerland. If the children's interests change, we may make slight changes along the way.

We have had a great first half term and really looking forward to what Autumn 2 has in store for us. 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.

Mrs Whaley and Miss Smurthwaite