

St George Class Newsletter



Dear Parents

I hope you all had a fantastic half term. It has been lovely to see all your pictures and updates on Tapestry. The following is a rough guide of what is happening this half term. 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 practicing moves from the 'Squiggle Wiggle' program as well as practicing to write both first names and surnames. During this time, they are also able to access the continuous provision to complete their weekly rainbow challenges and explore the independent learning opportunities. In addition to this the children may be asked to come and complete activities with me or Mrs Parker including reading and handwriting letter formation practice so it is really important that the children are on time 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 10p coins but these will be in the pot with the other coins they have learnt to recognise so they are challenged to select the right coin from 1p, 2p and 5p's.

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**. As the weather hopefully will continue to improve please could you also send in a sun hat to stay in their drawers along with sun cream so the children have them ready for the warmer days ahead.

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 continue to be on a Monday morning with NUFC and on a Thursday morning. This half term we also have NUFC coming into school on a Friday afternoon to do dance so on these 3 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

Thank you for sending in a named pair of wellies. We have put them to good use last term and we will continue to use them when we go out for our outdoor learning sessions.

Outdoor Learning

We will be continuing to access the sensory garden and aim to still venture outside in all weathers. We have enough red waterproof suits for everyone so we will be using these as much as possible when taking our learning outside. We have planned that a Tuesday morning will be our specific slot in the week so please make sure your child comes to school wrapped up warm and that girls wear trousers or leggings if possible on that day.

Reading and keywords

The children are enjoying their school reading books. It has been lovely to hear them share them so enthusiastically. We have additional copies in school which we aim to read together daily. 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. Please encourage children to read words they know and only sound out if they really need to as this is a skill they need to move forward and to become fluent confident readers. This is a skill we will continue to practice in school using flashcards and word games which include real and nonsense words. It is also good when sharing stories at home and when out and about to encourage children to spot the different words they see around them. This really boosts their confidence to have a go at reading words in a range different contexts and environments.

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. Please remember 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 practice key skills little and often. The more children practice, the more they gain confidence and the quicker they will progress.

When sharing books at home please talk about what has happened in the different stories. When the children are assessed to move onto a different reading level they need to be able to recall what has happened in the book without using picture prompts. Encourage them to retell the story including a beginning, middle and an end. Talk about the different characters and answer comprehension questions. Please don't hesitate to ask any questions as to how you can help support this at home if you are unsure.

Topics

Over this half term we will be covering the following themes; Animals and The Farm with an ongoing focus of Spring as the seasons continue to change. We will also be talking about Easter and early on in the term Shrove Tuesday and World Book Day. However if the children's interests change, we may make slight changes along the way.

Our role play has been set up as a Farm and this will change later in the term to a farm shop. If you have anything you think we could use in these different areas please send them in. The children really enjoy having 'real' things to enhance their play.

We have had a great first half of the school year and are really looking forward to what Spring 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 Mrs Parker x