

# St George Class Newsletter



Dear Parents

Welcome back to our final half term – it's hard to believe we have nearly completed a full year in school. It has once again been lovely to see all your pictures and updates on Tapestry from during half term. 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.

Hopefully this half term we will again be blessed with lovely warm weather and hope to spend a lot of time outside. With this in mind please could you please make sure that children **come to school** wearing sun cream if it looks like it is going to be a sunny day and to bring a hat or cap. Please also provide extra sun cream to keep in their drawer for a top up at lunchtime. Although it may be sunny, it can still a bit chilly especially at playtimes and when the sun leaves the garden area in the afternoon so please make sure children come to school with a coat. They are outside for quite a while at lunchtimes and really need a coat to wear as it can be rather cold when it's windy especially as we are so near the coast. Please can you also make sure they have a school bag or book bag with them every day.

## Mornings

The children have settled into the routines and are keen to find an activity on one of the tables which are usually based practising moves from the 'Squiggle Wiggle' program as well as practising 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. It is really important that the children are on time and that they are encouraged to put their things away quickly and do their morning jobs.

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.

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 continuing to 'pay' for their snack (pretend money/resources from school) and this term's focus will be doubling numbers 1-5. We will use 1p and 2p coins, Numicon pieces which we use in maths and numerals on cards. We will still add in different addition problems with the different coins we have already learnt so the children have a variety of problem-solving challenges to reinforce their learning.

## Lunchtimes

Please could you make sure that if you order a school lunch for your child it is something that they will have a good go at eating. Recently there have been lots of letters sent home regarding children saying they don't like certain foods on the menu. It is expected that the children have a good attempt at eating their lunch and pudding every day before going out to play. This is particularly important so that we know the children have enough energy for the afternoon and aren't going hungry.

## PE

Our PE will continue to be on a Monday with NUFC and this half term we have a sports day practice session on a Thursday morning. On these days the children will 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. Even though we pray for fine weather it can still be damp in the sensory garden on a morning so please make sure your child has a pair in school every day.

## 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 dressed appropriately 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. PLEASE CAN YOU SEND READING BOOKS IN DAILY as I am going to hear the children read as much as possible throughout the week. I will send the books home each evening for you to continue to practise at home. 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. 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 something we will be continuing to practise 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 practised 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 practise key skills little and often. The more children practise, 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. The children when they are assessed to move onto a different reading level need to be able to recall what has happened in the book without using picture prompts. Encourage them to retell the story including talking about the 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.

### **Independent writing**

As the children are becoming more confident when writing of simple words and are eager to use their 'Fred fingers' to help them sound out words which they want to write phonetically. Please encourage this at home too with the set 1 and set 2 sounds which will be sent home. As we move towards being ready for Year 1 we will be focusing on writing sentences independently with a big focus on using capital letters, finger spaces and full stops. If children are eager to write at home please encourage them to remember these 3 important things when writing.

Although most children are able to write all the 26 letters of the alphabet many still struggle with letter formation so please revisit the Read Write Inc rhymes and continue to practise these at home and this will continue to be a focus in school during handwriting sessions. This also includes orientation of the letters, sitting on the line and the ascenders and decenders being in the right place.

As part of the achieving an expected judgement in writing within the Early Learning Goals children need to be able to write simple sentences and captions across a range of genres using their phonic knowledge and some high frequency words therefore our literacy will include lots of opportunities to develop them as independent writers will continue through a story focus over a few weeks so the children really get to know the story in detail and have lots of opportunities to revisit in different ways.

### **Topics**

Over this half term we will be covering the following themes; Pirates, The Seaside and Holidays with an ongoing focus of Summer as the seasons continue to change. However, if the children's interests change, we may make slight changes along the way.

Our role play has been set up as a pirate ship and this will change later in the term to reflect the different stories we will be reading. 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 2 1/2 terms of the school year so far and are really looking forward to what Summer 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