

St George Class Newsletter

September 2023



Dear Parents,

Welcome to St George Class and your child's first half term in Reception. This newsletter will hopefully give you a rough guide as to what will be happening throughout this half term. If you have any questions please arrange to speak to myself or Mrs Archer at a convenient time as mornings can be very busy. Alternatively, we are happy to rearrange a telephone conversation and to use the Tapestry app.

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 which has their name on.

Free fruit is available on a daily basis 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. Throughout the morning the children will have the opportunity to have their snack during independent learning time on a free flow basis. To support the learning and recognition of different types of coins the children will be asked to 'pay' using the coins on the snack table for their snack. This will ensure we know that they have had their snack but also as we go through the year the price will change so the children have had exposure to a range of different coins. If you prefer to send in a snack from home, please make sure that it is a healthy choice and does not contain nuts. Please make sure your child brings a water bottle to school on a Monday morning which we will send home on Friday to be washed. 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 would 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. 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 Friday 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. 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 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 in the next few weeks. 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 next 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. Once the children have learnt a few sounds we will start blending sounds together to read words which contain the sounds we have learnt so far. These words will be sent home on green flashcards to practise. The children **will not** be sent home books with words until they have learnt enough sounds and I feel they are ready to practise reading at home. In addition to the green flashcard words we will quickly start to read and recognise high frequency words. These are words which appear regularly in stories also known as 'red words' - words which can only be read and not sounded out. These will be sent out on flashcards to keep going over and practising at home regularly. Over time the children will need to also be able to write these words.

There will be an opportunity to ask further questions about reading on the 12th September at 2.30pm where you will be able to see the resources we use in school.

Topics

Over this half term we plan to focus on all about me and the local environment. We will also be looking at seasonal changes as we move further into autumn. 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! A blog is uploaded to the school website under the classes section on a Friday which will give an overview of what we have been doing during the week as well as photos of our learning. Photos are also posted on Tapestry regularly so please make sure you log in frequently. Equally please upload photos of things you have been doing at home as these are a great starting point during circle time discussions.

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 Archer x