



Reception Class Term 1 Newsletter



Welcome to you all. I hope the children have enjoyed their first few days at school. Thank you for allowing me to visit you at home before they started. It is so helpful to get to spend some time with the children in their own setting so we can get to know each other. The children have settled really well and I am looking forward to the exciting term ahead. Below I have outlined some of the things that will be happening/ things that we will be learning over the coming term. Our learning also follows the children's interests and after the home visits I definitely have some more ideas of things we will be learning about throughout the year! If you need to contact me, my email address is Jacqueline.West2@sgmail.org.uk

Topic- Castles

This term our topic which links with the Key Stage One class is called 'Invasion' and we will be focusing on Castles. We will however begin the year by getting to know each other better and settling into the routines of school life. We will be looking at the story 'All Are Welcome' by Alexandra Penfold, talking about how we feel about starting school and discussing any worries that we might have. There will be lots of time spent playing games together, learning more about each other and making new friends. Throughout the term the seasons will begin to change so we will look at what happens when summer changes to autumn and talking about harvest festival and why this is a special festival for Christians.

Water Bottles



Please ensure that a named water bottle is brought into school every day. These will be stored in the classroom and sent home at the end of each day. Only fill with water, **NO** squash, juice or fizzy drinks please.

Baseline Assessment

During these first 3 transition weeks I will be completing some baseline assessments to get a clear picture of the children as they enter St Andrew's. These assessments will be completed as part of the compulsory National Baseline Assessments set out by the DFE and will be used to help inform planning in our first term.

Milk and Fruit

Until they are 5 all children who want it will be offered a carton of milk each day. Once children turn 5 they no longer qualify for free milk.

All children also receive a snack mid- morning in the form of a piece of fresh fruit.



Outdoor Learning

Every week we will be going outside for some of our learning activities around the school site. If children are yet to bring in their own pair of welly boots please bring in a pair of boots that can stay in school.



Book Bags

Please make sure that book bags come to school with your child every day. This ensures your child's reading book is in school every day so we can read with them as much as possible and change their books. This is also a useful tool in ensuring letters make it home safely.



PE

PE days will be on a Monday and Tuesday beginning in week 4 (25th September). Children can come to school wearing their PE kit on these days. PE Kit consists of:

Plain black shorts/leggings/joggers; a plain white t-shirt or blue t-shirt with or without the school logo; a **black plain** sweat top or school sweat top or school fleece; daps or trainers (trainers are preferable as most PE activities will be outdoors).

Phonics and Reading

This term we will begin to introduce the children to the new phonics program from Fisher Family Trust, a complete Systematic Synthetic phonics programme validated by the DfE. To begin with we will introduce children to 3-4 new sounds (phonemes) a week. Once children have been taught the first set of sounds they will begin to bring home reading books that include the sounds that they have learnt in school. I will also communicate the sounds that we have been learning so you can follow this up at home.

Junk Modelling

Please can you help to stock up our junk modelling area!
Please could you collect some recycling to bring into school at any time to top up our junk modelling box – tubes, cereal boxes, bottle tops etc.



Family Photos

Please could you send in a few photos of your family/pets etc. I am hoping to make a photo album of pictures for children to look at. It is a great conversation starter. I can photocopy photos you send in or if you can email them to me then I am happy to print them out.

Staffing

Here is a timetable of who is teaching the children. On Monday and Tuesday afternoons the children will spend some time with the Year 1/2 teacher as she will teach the PE lessons. On a Wednesday afternoon Mrs Milverton and I have our PPA time and Mrs Moore and Mrs Mayhew Sanders will be teaching RE.

Monday AM	Mrs West	Monday PM	Mrs Mayhew-Sanders/Mrs Milverton
Tuesday AM	Mrs West	Tuesday PM	Mrs Mayhew-Sanders/Mrs Milverton
Wednesday AM	Mrs West	Wednesday PM	Mrs Mayhew Sanders/Mrs Moore
Thursday AM	Mrs Mayhew-Sanders	Thursday PM	Mrs Mayhew-Sanders
Friday AM	Mrs Mayhew-Sanders	Friday PM	Mrs Mayhew-Sanders