

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. These activities really are helping them develop their independence as they now know the morning routine and are keen to get busy. These activities rotate so every child will complete each one during the week. These activities are then collected and filed so that we have evidence of the children's independent learning. 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 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.

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**. Please make sure you have a hat, gloves and a scarf in everyday as the weather can be so unpredictable. 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 usually be on a **Monday** morning with NUFC and **Tuesday** so on these days children need to come to school wearing their PE kit. This half term we will be focusing on gymnastics. We try and go down and work in the sensory garden on **Thursday** 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 term and we will continue to use them when we go out for our outdoor learning sessions.

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.

The children will be assessed early into this term and will be re grouped according to ability and may be working with different adults around school. The reading books which are sent home will be linked to the reading group they are working in and will contain the sounds which they are learning in school. We will also continue to send home a shared reading book

which will contain lots of high frequency words so this will give the children to practice spotting them within a story book context.

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.

'Drawing Club' has been a huge success last half term and the children are really enthusiastic about writing and sharing their ideas. The weekly vocabulary focus has made a huge difference and it has been wonderful to hear them using these new words within their independent play around the classroom. This half term we will be focusing on full stops, finger spaces and capital letters when writing sentences as well as ensuring the children are using the correct letter formations and writing on the lines showing the ascenders and descenders clearly above and below the line.

Topics

Over this half term we will be covering the following themes, animals including pets, vets and the farm, and Spring as the seasons change and hopefully the weather warms up. We will link these themes to core story texts which our learning will be based around each week. If the children's interests change, we may make slight changes along the way.

Photos are posted on our EYFS blog on the school's website every Friday so please make sure you visit 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 x