

# St George Class Newsletter



Dear Parents

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a fantastic Christmas and New Year. 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. The children have been put into small groups and complete a focused activity which is usually to practise their handwriting, number formation and usually a cutting and sticking activity linked to the story of theme. These activities rotate so every child will complete each one during the week. In addition to this the children may be asked to come and complete small activities with me or Mrs Archer 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 5p 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 every day as the weather can be so unpredictable.

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 Miss Taylor 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 **Friday** so on these days children need to come to school wearing their PE kit. This half term we will be doing yoga. We try and work outside in the sensory garden and outdoor areas on a **Tuesday** 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 half term and we will continue to use them when we go out for our outdoor learning sessions.

If you think that your child may have grown out of the ones in school please ask us and we can send them home to check and you can replace them if needs be.

## 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 Monday 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 reading flashcards with the focus sounds we have been learning. More of these will be sent home throughout the term. 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 were assessed before Christmas by Miss Sheridan and now have been 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 reading for pleasure book. Some children may start to come home with high frequency flashcards to practise to recognise and read. These are linked to the Read Write Inc. colour group books that they are working in at school.

The yellow folders which were given out last term stay at home and any additional worksheets we send home can be added to this. Flash cards and high frequency words will be sent out at different times throughout the term which stay at home in the small plastic wallet to be practiced regularly. We will be continuing to learn to write the red words so they children can use these in their independent writing as we move towards thinking about writing our own sentences.

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.

### Topics

Over this half term we will be covering the following themes, Chinese New Year, Winter and People Who Help Us. We will link these themes to core story texts which our learning will be based around each week. We will also be looking at seasonal changes too as we get further into winter and hopefully begin to see signs of spring appearing as we approach February. If the children's interests change, we may make slight changes along the way.

In RE this half term we are going to be looking at different stories from the bible. We will be talking about why they are important and what makes them special to Christians.

We have had a great first term and really looking forward to what Spring 1 has in store for us. 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 Mrs Archer x