

Building Each Other Up in Love and Learning

10th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you and your families have had a restful break over the festive period and that your children are ready and keen to start their second academic term in Reception. As a staff team, we cannot wait to get back to teaching the children and enjoying this journey with them together.

Reading

It is impossible to over emphasise the positive impact that reading has on your child's education and development. This key life skill, when learned and enjoyed at an early age, will improve your children's independent writing, expand their vocabulary, broaden their viewpoint on life, improve their concentration and expand their imagination. For these reasons, we would ask that you devote a little time each day to reading together with your son or daughter. Whatever form these sessions take: whether you share a book, take it in turns to read, listen to your child read or you are there to pose questions about what has been read, this is one of the best ways you can help your child flourish as a learner! Your child will be allocated a reading book that is matched closely to their phonic knowledge to enable children to build up their fluency. The allocated book should be read and discussed with your child. Please make sure that your child's current book is in their book bag each day along with their reading diary.

Please can you ensure that your child's reading record is signed by a parent or guardian. Children should be reading at least 10 minutes a day.

Bug Club

Each child has been allocated a login to be able to access Bug Club where they will be allocated electronic books that they can read in addition to the books that are sent home in their book bag. Details of their login are stuck into their reading diary. We will regularly check and add more books to your child's account. Please let us know if you are having any problems with this and we will endeavour to support you and rectify them as soon as we can.

Phonics (Reading and Spelling)

The children will generally be taught two phonics spelling sounds each week. As part of your child's homework, we would like the children to practise their new sounds daily and also to practise their previously taught sounds so they can recognise them at speed. We are now well into learning new sounds in phase 3 and are working on digraphs as well as single sounds. By the end of Reception year children are expected to be able to recognise all their single sounds and at least 10 additional digraphs and blend them together to read words. Regular practice and re-visiting sounds is key. You will be receiving the second sounds book shortly in your child's book bag. (The order in the book is not always the same as the order in which we teach so please refer to the google classroom for the correct order.) We also post regular updates on the new sounds children are learning on the google classroom with additional supporting materials.

Maths

In Reception, we continue to teach mathematics for depth of understanding. Children will be continuing to work on recognising mathematical structures and patterns in number. They will be continuing to develop their problem solving skills and articulate their learning through talking in whole sentences. They will have many opportunities to practise their learning independently both at school and at home through their homework tasks.



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Google Classroom

The Reception Google Classroom will continue to be a hub for everything that parents and the children need to support them with their learning this academic year. Please check this regularly (at least weekly) to ensure that you can utilise all of the resources there. You have been sent a login for your child so that you can access this back in the autumn term but if you are experiencing any problems with this please let us know as soon as possible so we can rectify this for you.

Tapestry

Tapestry is your child's online learning journal. It is there for both practitioners in school and adults at home to contribute so that we get a fully rounded picture of your child's learning journey over the year towards attaining the Early Learning Goals. Please add photographs of your child's learning and achievements throughout the year to share with us. If you can add a little information to photos explaining what your child achieved or said that demonstrates their learning or achievement that would be really helpful.

Homework

This year all homework will be posted onto Google classroom and handed in via Tapestry (not Google classroom) which is your child's online learning journal. Homework will be set on a Friday based on the learning the children have done that week and any record of their learning should be posted onto Tapestry before the following Friday allowing families the flexibility to complete it at a suitable time when an adult is available to engage with the child. Not all tasks will need to be posted. We will be posting the new sounds for the week on Google Classroom. Children are also set a regular maths task with Mathematical Megan and they can also record their learning on Tapestry. This year, homework expectations will be:

- Daily practise of new sounds, recap of previous sounds and sight words (red words and high frequency words).
- Daily reading
- Maths Challenge with Mathematical Megan

If your child struggles with the homework or has found a particular task difficult, please inform your child's teacher via email in order for the teacher to be able to see which concept they need to work on with your child.

Equipment

We would also like to emphasise that school bags should only be the school book bags for reception children. **Please do not put water bottles inside** as this leads to damage to the school reading books. To ensure we adhere to our hygiene rules, we will be providing the equipment that children need for their daily learning and it will remain in school to use. This includes items such as pencils, colouring pencils, basic maths manipulatives, glue sticks and scissors. We ask that no additional equipment is brought into school. We also kindly ask that only one keyring is attached to book bags if your child needs one to identify it quickly and easily. Can we also ask that book bags are not used to put in hats, gloves and other items of clothing as this makes them incredibly bulky and difficult to store and use for their intended purpose.

Timetable

You will have access to your child's weekly timetable for the Spring Term on their Google Classroom, however please do be aware this is changeable week on week dependent on trips, visitors etc.

PE and Games

Our PE lessons are detailed below:

Diamond class will have their PE lessons on a Thursday morning.

Opal class will have their PE lessons on a Thursday morning.

All reception children will change for PE in their classroom as part of their learning for the Physical Development Area of Learning.

Please can you check that your child has the following:

- Shorts and a t-shirt (the colour of their house) for PE lessons (all clearly labelled)
- A spare change of clothes including socks in a plastic bag (this is kept inside the PE bag)



If you haven't already done so please can you return your child's PE kit that was sent home at the end of the autumn term to be washed ready for the start of PE lessons. We will let you know later in the year when they need trainers for PE outdoors.

If your child has a sports club before or after school, they **must** change into their school uniform during the school day. **School uniform includes school shoes and not trainers.**

Birthdays Reminder

As a Healthy School, if you wish to share something with the class to celebrate your child's birthday, please can we ask that instead of a sweet treat, a book could be donated to the class library.

Communication and Dates

As always, if you have any concerns, worries or just want a quick informal chat, please do not hesitate to get in touch with either of us via the reception@st-stephens.richmond.sch.uk

We very much look forward to the academic year ahead!

Kindest Regards,

The Reception Team

reception@st-stephens.richmond.sch.uk



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