

## Building Each Other Up in Love and Learning

Monday 5th September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

We hope that you and your families have had a restful break and that your children are ready and keen to start their first year. As a staff team, we are already looking forward to the excitement and new opportunities which getting to teach a new class of children brings .

We will be gathering for a Curriculum Evening in school to discuss all the exciting opportunities the Reception year brings for your child. The Reception class meeting will be on Wednesday 21st at 6.00pm. It covers much of this letter in more detail and we hope that it gives you both an understanding and an insight into life in Reception.

### Religious Education and Worship

This year we are excited to continue with our school values. These are: friendship, thankfulness, kindness, forgiveness, respect (for the environment), service and peace.

Each year group has been allocated with a spiritual value. During RE lessons and Class Worship time children will have the opportunity to learn and reflect upon their value using a range of resources, such as Biblical stories and verses, world news and events, and personal experiences.

The children will also be encouraged to take ownership of their year group value by thinking about how it could be implemented into the school and wider community, for example raising money for charities or helping the school to be more eco-friendly.

The spiritual value for Reception is Friendship.

### 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 for reading together with your child. 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. This book will have already been read in school the previous week with a member of teaching staff on three occasions so your child should be very familiar with the book. 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. They will also choose an additional book from the class library for you to read to them and enjoy together. (This is not a book they are expected to read independently.)

### Phonics (Reading and Spelling)

We follow the Little Wandle Phonics scheme. The children will generally be taught four new phonics spelling sounds each week along with some tricky words. As part of your child's homework, we would like the children to practise their new sounds and tricky words daily and also to practise their previously taught sounds and tricky words so they

can recognise them at speed. New sounds and tricky words will be added to google classroom each week as well as your child having a tricky word box.

### Maths

In Reception we teach mathematics for depth of understanding. Children will be working on recognising mathematical structures and patterns in number. They will be developing their problem solving skills and articulating 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. We also follow the mastering number programme.

### Google Classroom

The new Reception Google Classroom will be a hub for everything that parents and the children need to support them with their learning this academic year. Please check this weekly to ensure they utilise all of the resources there. You will be sent a login for you and your child to access this.

### 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. We may occasionally send out a memo eg. Don't forget we have our trip tomorrow.

### Homework

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. Later in the term children will also be set a maths task with Mathematical Megan and they can also record their learning on Tapestry.

This year, homework expectations will be:

- Daily practice of new sounds, recap of previous sounds and sight words (tricky 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.

### Timetable

You will have access to your child's weekly timetable for the Autumn 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:

Anning class will have their PE lessons on Wednesday afternoons.

King class will have their PE lessons on Tuesday afternoons.

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)

We will let you know later in the year when they need trainers for PE outdoors.

### Staff

The staff for the classes are as follows:

Anning – Ms Dale (Tuesday -Friday) Mrs Cole (Monday)

King – Mrs Howes (Monday, Tuesday, Friday) Mrs Cole (Tuesday - Thursday)

Support Staff Team - Mrs Austin

### Birthdays

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](mailto: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](mailto:reception@st-stephens.richmond.sch.uk)