

Dear parents/carers,

I hope you and your families have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer.

I am really looking forward to teaching the class and getting to know your children better. I have been lucky enough to spend some time getting to know them over the last term and know they are a friendly and hardworking bunch, with so much potential! As we launch into what promises to be a busy and exciting term, I wanted to send some reminders and let you know a bit about what we will be doing in school.

This academic year we are unable to have rucksacks in school. We would ask that you please provide your child with a clear wallet (or purchase an optional school book bag) to keep their reading book in good condition. We have invested substantially in our school library and want to encourage children to look after the books; they are easily damaged when squashed into bags or placed next to a leaky water bottle.

The uniform expectations are fully outlined in the policy on our website, but briefly, shoes or trainers must be completely black, with no logos. PE Kit must also be plain with no logos. If earrings are worn to school, they must be plain studs. The children will take part in daily physical activity (DPA), so ideally, black trainer type shoes are preferable (however these do need to be waterproof to cope with our changeable weather). If you would prefer your child to change their shoes for DPA, please send them with a pair (named) in a drawstring bag to keep in school. Children will be required to wear their PE kits on their PE day this term, which will be on **Thursday** and will stay in their PE kits all day. Therefore a change of clothes is not needed.

Please ensure everything is named! This includes water bottles, book bags, wellies and uniform. Everything always finds its way back to the classroom if it has a clear label.

We will be making the most of the wonderful grounds we have at St Helen's so they need to bring a pair of (named) wellies to keep in school. The children will need to bring a waterproof all in one suit for our Wild Tribe sessions, which can be kept in school. The all in one will be sent home to be washed at the end of each half term or when it gets very dirty. This way, we can take advantage of any outdoor learning opportunities at any time. The children will change into their Wild Tribe clothes after lunch.

Please ensure your child brings in a named water bottle each day and if they wish, either a piece of fruit, vegetable or healthy snacks such as cheese chunks, rice cake or crackers for mid-morning. A free piece of fruit will be provided each day. If your child has packed lunch, we would encourage a healthy and balanced selection to keep them energised throughout the afternoon.

Our big question this term that we will be discussing and exploring is 'How do we know we belong?'. You can see more about what we will be covering on the curriculum overview that will arrive along with this letter and it will be posted on Seesaw.

We will continue to use Seesaw to showcase and share the children's work, progress and achievements in school. It would be amazing if you could like and comment on your child's work. The pride we see and motivation that comes from your recognition of their work is not to be underestimated. Please make sure you can access Seesaw the Class and Family apps. You should already have the link and QR codes for you to log on to both apps. If you need a new one, please contact the school office.

I expect the children to read at home at least five times each week, adding a short comment to Seesaw each time. I hope to send home a phonetically decodable and reading for pleasure book by the end of the first full week. Reading is so integral to a child's academic achievement, helping with their comprehension and understanding, vocabulary, background knowledge and writing flair. We want children to enjoy reading and the practice at home really makes a difference so if you are struggling to motivate them, anything you can get them to read is fine - comics, recipes, books on a kindle, the back of a cereal packet... you get the idea!

Finally, I just wanted to let you know that I am always happy to meet with you if you have a concern or query. Please let me know either through the office or Seesaw so we can arrange a suitable time for us both.

Best wishes,

Miss Darcey Phillips