

Dear parents / carers,

We hope you and your families have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. We hope that the recent warm weather continues well into the Autumn term!

We are really looking forward to teaching the class and getting to know your children better. We wanted to send some reminders and let you know a bit about what we will be doing in school.

Please ensure everything is named! This includes water bottles, chrome books and all items of uniform. Everything always finds its way back to the classroom if it has a clear label. We would also ask that you please provide your child with a clear wallet 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 bookbags 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. A wrist watch is also allowed but no other jewellery or nail varnish is permitted.

PE Kit must also be plain with no logos. If earrings are worn to school, they must be plain studs and children must be able to remove them themselves or bring in their own tape for any physical activities.

In terms of PE, the children will continue to take part in Daily Physical Activity (DPA), so ideally, trainer type shoes are preferable (however these do need to be quite 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 their bag. This term's PE skills will be based on basketball and cricket.

We try and make the most of the wonderful grounds we have at St Helen's so it would be great if the children could bring a pair of wellies to keep in school, if they haven't already done so. This way, we can take advantage of any outdoor learning opportunities at any time. If the children are required to have full outdoor clothing for activities, we will let you know in advance.

Please ensure your child brings in a named water bottle each day and either a fruit or vegetable snack for mid-morning. If your child has packed lunch, we would encourage a healthy and balanced selection to keep them energised throughout the afternoon.

Our central idea for this half term is 'Past civilizations shape present day systems and technologies'. We will focus on Ancient Greece. As part of the project, we will have a Greek Day in school on 16th October where the children are invited to dress up. There will be a Greek school menu that day and the children will take part in lots of Greek activities.

In English we will be using the text 'Who let the gods out?' by Maz Evans and reading Greek myths. We will be focusing on narrative writing and newspaper reports.

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.

Home learning to support and enhance classwork will be sent out via Seesaw each week. We expect the children to read at home at least five times each week, adding a short comment to Seesaw each time. 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! A school reading book will come home during the first week, once your child has a plastic wallet to keep it safe in.

Last year we know that your children worked really hard to learn their multiplication facts up to 12 x 12. This year we would like you to continue practising these facts at home, as well as practising the corresponding division facts. Knowing these and being able to recall them quickly will aid them with their Year 5 maths learning. Mathletics, Times Table Rock Stars and Hit the Button are all good websites to help with this.

If any parents or family members would be interested in volunteering, we are always appreciative of help with readers. Please see Rachel in the school office for further details of what's required to volunteer.

Finally, we just wanted to let you know that we are always happy to meet with you if you have a query. Please let me know either through the office or Seesaw and we can arrange a suitable time.

Best wishes,

Louise Gagg and Jody Brown