

Dear parents/carers,

I hope you and your families have had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. Despite the rainy start, we finally saw the sun appear and we hope that it continues into the Autumn term!

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 teaching them over the last year 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.

I will start by asking that you ensure everything is named. This includes water bottles, chrome books and 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 (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 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. 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, for PE. Staff are not allowed to assist with this.

In terms of PE, the children will continue to take part in 20 minutes of 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. Weekly swimming will commence on Wednesday 13th September and children will need to bring each week, their swimming trunks or costume, a towel, a swimming hat and optional goggles.

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 (named) wellies to keep in school. 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 enquiry question that we will be answering this half-term is 'how can we be a global village if we don't understand one another?' You can see more about what we will be covering on the curriculum overview which will be shared soon.

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 Friday. I will set weekly spellings and times tables (with a test each Friday) and expect the children to read at home at least five times each week, adding a short comment to Seesaw each time. Reading is 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. If you are struggling to motivate your child, 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!

Times tables are a huge focus this year. In June, all year 4 children across the country will complete the statutory multiplication check. This is a series of 25 random multiplication questions with a 6 second window to answer each. We will work on the children's fluency throughout the year and there really is no need to worry as long as they are practicing at home as part of their homework, as well as at school. Hit the button is great for practice.

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 and we can arrange a suitable time.

Best wishes,

Jaime Larque