

Dear parents/carers,

We hope you have all had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. As we launch into what promises to be a busy and exciting term, we wanted to send some reminders and let you know a bit about what we will be doing in school.

This year, the children will have Mrs Barkwill Monday-Wednesday and Mrs Fidler Thursday-Friday. We both work full time so we will be in school every day supporting the children's learning. We just want to remind you that we are always happy to meet with you if you have a concern or query. Please let us know either through the office or via Seesaw and we can arrange a suitable time. If you need to contact us, please do remember to message us both on Seesaw as this will ensure continuity throughout the week.

Let's start by asking that you ensure everything is named! This includes water bottles, chrome books and uniform. We would also ask that you please provide your child with a clear plastic 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 rucksacks or placed next to a leaky water bottle.

The uniform expectations are fully outlined in the policy on our website. A reminder that school shoes must be completely black. PE Kit must also be plain (without logos) with supportive trainers for exercise. If earrings are worn to school, they must be plain studs and children must be able to remove them themselves for PE.

In terms of PE, the children will continue to take part in 20 minutes of daily physical activity (DPA). If you would prefer your child to change out of their school shoes for DPA, please send them with a named pair of trainers in their bag - these can stay at school if needed. Our PE lessons will take place every Friday and this term the focus will be tag rugby. The required PE kit is as outlined below:

- Plain white t-shirt
- School hoody or school jumper
- Dark blue / black shorts, joggers or leggings
- Trainers

We try to make the most of the wonderful grounds we have at St Helen's so please ensure the children have a pair of (named) wellies - these can be kept in school. This means that 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 that can be refilled throughout the day. Also, to keep your child fuelled until lunchtime, we encourage you to pack a healthy snack for your child to enjoy mid-morning.

Our enquiry question for this term is, 'How can we be a global village?' For more information about this term's learning, please see the school website.

We will continue to use Seesaw to showcase and share the children's work, progress and achievements in school. Please like and comment on your child's work - the pride and motivation that comes from your recognition of their work is not to be underestimated.

Home learning to support and enhance classwork will be set every Friday on Mathletics and Seesaw. There will be a set of weekly spellings to practise ready for a test the following Friday, a weekly comprehension to read ready to answer questions in class the following week and a short Maths task on Mathletics.

We also 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, listening to audiobooks, the back of a cereal packet... you get the idea!

Dates for your diaries:

Tuesday 12th September - Welcome Back BBQ after school

Tuesday 19th September - Lundy trip

Wednesday 27th September - Tom Palmer author visit

Tuesday 31st October - school photos

Best wishes,

Amy Barkwill and Gemma Fidler