

Dear parents/carers,

I hope you have all had a fabulous and relaxing summer. It's not what I'd usually say after the summer holidays but I hope you've enjoyed splashing in the puddles and running around in the rain! I feel really lucky to teach this class again and I'm looking forward to spending the year with them all.

A quick reminder that the uniform expectations are as they were previously. They are fully outlined in the policy on our website, but briefly: shoes must be black. If earrings are worn to school, they must be small, plain studs. The children will take part in daily physical activity (DPA), so ideally, black trainer type shoes are preferable but not essential. 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 and will stay in their kit all day. PE will be on a **Tuesday** this term.

Please ensure everything is named. This includes water bottles, book bags, wellies, coats and uniform. This academic year we are unable to have rucksacks in class due to lack of space in the 'cloakroom area' because our pegs are inside the classroom in Year 2. The children only need a bookbag, a drink bottle and packed lunch if they are not having school dinners. 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 so please ensure bottles aren't carried in book bags.

We will be making the most of the wonderful grounds we have at St Helen's throughout the year but Wild Tribe will no longer be taught weekly or Fortnightly, instead it will be run during Enrichment afternoons on a Wednesday. I will send out a separate letter to the whole school detailing the date each half term to bring in Wild Tribe clothes. Your child should know which group they are in from Year 1 but if not please ask us.

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 that we will be discussing and exploring this half term is 'How are we different and why is that so important?'. You can see more about what we will be covering on our school website. I will also be posting pictures of the children's learning and enquiries on Seesaw.

At St Helen's reading is at the heart of all learning. We prioritise developing and fostering a love of reading. You can support this at home by reading at home at least four times each week, please remember to add a short comment to Seesaw each time. I hope to send home a phonetically decodable/AR book and library book by the end of the first full week. Library books will be changed every Thursday if your child chooses to. Reading is so integral to a child's

academic progress, 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 great- comics, recipes, books on a kindle, the back of a cereal packet, instructions for games and toys.

As always, we are more than happy to chat with you or meet if you have any concerns or questions. Please come and speak to us in the playground or send us a message on Seesaw.

Kind regards,

Mrs Harding and Mrs Northcott