



Early Years Autumn Newsletter



Welcome

Welcome to a new academic year. We want to welcome all our families and children to the Early Years Foundation Stage.

We are delighted to also welcome Miss Patel who joins Miss Stevens in Pandas class, Miss Dawson and Mrs. Wakelin in Dolphins class and Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Myers in the Squirrels nursery class. We have a busy year ahead. Over the next few weeks the children will be getting to know the teachers, their new friends and learning the daily routines and prayers.

All About Me

This half term we will be getting to know each other through 'All About Me'. The Nursery children have displayed pictures of their families, whilst in the Reception classes the children have been drawing pictures of their families along with some of their favourite things. During group times the children are sharing news and stories from home.

After half term we will be learning about our local community and celebrating Christmas. The Nursery and Reception children will take part in a joint nativity performance.

In the spring term we will be learning about people who help us, life cycles and we will celebrate Easter. We will start the summer term looking at different types of transport.

To support our learning, we will be taking the children on learning walks to our local shops and amenities. *(further information will be sent home near the time)*

Water Bottles

Your child has been given a water bottle, this corresponds with the colour group they are in. In Nursery the bottles are filled daily and they are sent home on Fridays. In Reception, children take the water bottle home and should return with it daily.

Bookbags

Bookbags have a dual purpose they are used to send home reading folders or books to share (nursery), but we also use them to send home work/drawings that your child has completed in class, correspondence from school, homework and weekend books. In Nursery Bookbags are sent home on Fridays, in Reception they are sent home daily. *Please help us by checking them regularly.*

Communication Books

Communication books offer children the opportunity to share news, achievements and activities that they have taken part in at the weekends or during holidays and to talk about these with teachers and classmates during group times. This forms part of sharing our weekends news on Monday mornings in Nursery and our writing task in Reception.

Chatterbags

The main purpose of a Chatter Bag is to use real objects that will build vocabulary and promote conversations for children in a way that is relevant to them. They also promote listening and turn taking skills. Part of the Chatter Bag program is for children to use the bags to bring to school a special item from home which they

are encouraged to 'show and tell' during group time.

If your child brings home a bag this is an opportunity for them to bring in an item from home to share. The item should be special/familiar to them, we hope it will provide a starting point to relate the object to their own experience and start a conversation within a group. The item does not need to be a toy, it may be a photograph of a family member or pet, a comforter or item from the home environment, the important thing is that the child really wants to share it with the group.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

If you would like to find out more about the EYFS or how you can support your child at home the Department for Education and 4Children have produced a guide called 'What to Expect, When' which can be downloaded from the website:

www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2015/09/4Children_ParentsGuide_Sept_2015v4WEB1.pdf

Phonics

Children are encouraged to link letters and sounds from the start of their journey through the foundation stage at St. Marys, to support your child at home and to give you additional information we have put together some phonics material and resources which can be found on the school's website on either the Nursery or Reception class pages.

Maths Passport

As part of a whole school initiative your child will join our math's journey which will chart they maths progression through school. They will complete different maths tasks in order to get a stamp in their math's passport which will enable them to progress to a new country. In early years we will be visiting the home nations and hopefully Ireland. Please keep an eye on the school's weekly newsletters to read more about the scheme and via the school website:

www.smi.hounslow.sch.uk/Media/maths-passports---parent.pdf.

Information on supporting maths at home can be found on the school's website on the Reception class page.

Ways You Can Help Us

- Make sure your child is on time every day.
- Please contact the school via the school app or by phone if your child is absent.
- Ensure all contact information is kept updated.
- Send your child in wearing the correct uniform. *Children are allowed to wear their own clothes only on their birthday.*
- Make sure all clothing is clearly labelled.
- Ensure bookbags and water bottles are bought to School every day.

We always require parent helpers on trips and visits. We also occasionally need support from parents or relatives who have occupations that they could talk to the children about i.e. doctors, nurses, firefighters, etc. Or who would like to share a talent, be it in music, art or sport. Please speak to your class teacher if you can help us.

Resources

We are fortunate in Early Years to have a variety of resources, however to help with our creative activities and junk modelling we always need:

Small plastic items - pots, boxes and bottles – we especially would like green plastic bottles

Cardboard - small boxes, tubes

Old stationary – envelopes, cards, pads

Old magazines, newspapers

Old light weight pots, pans or metal utensils

If any parents have a cash till or old bank card machine which we could you use in our role play shop this would be gratefully received.



We look forward to working with you this year.

The Early Years Team