



# St John and St James C of E Primary School Class Newsletter

## Reading Diaries

Your child will be given a home reading book on a **Tuesday and Friday**. Please make sure that on these days your child's book is in their bags in order for it to be changed.

Please help your child to practise reading at home for 10-15 minutes each day, and to fill in their reading diary.

You can support them by encouraging them to point to each word as they read, and by asking a few questions about the story. For example, "what do you think will happen next?" or "how is this character feeling?"

## Homework

Homework will be handed out each week on a **Friday** with the expectation that it will be returned to school by **Tuesday**. There will be a writing task each week and some maths that will revisit something we've done in class.

If anything is unclear, please don't hesitate to ask. There is a homework club on Friday afternoons that children can attend to get extra support.

## Spellings

We use a programme called **Head Start** to teach spelling. The programme works in 4-week cycles and each cycle will focus on 4 spelling rules.

The children will have 2 spelling homework activity sheets to complete **each week**.

The children will look at spelling rules in more depth, through a wider range of games and activities.

Instead of a weekly spelling test, we will have a **spelling test every 4 weeks**.

## Hygiene

This is a reminder to continue to talk to your children about the importance of washing their hands.

At school we will be washing our hands at key points throughout the day.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact me directly, via the school office or the home diary.

Dear Parents and Carers,  
Welcome back to St John and St James and a very warm welcome to year 1!

We hope you had a lovely summer break. The children have transitioned well from reception to year 1 and have settled in very well!

This term we have a lot to look forward to and there will be plenty of opportunities to get involved with your child's learning. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to talk to me or make an appointment via the office.

I hope that the first term in year 1 will be a happy one.

Adults working in Year 1  
Miss Forman  
Mrs Eames

## Topic



Our new topic this half term is 'My History',

Our key question is:

### What is history and what is my history?

In this topic we will learn about the ways in which we find out about the past and the different ways it can be represented, we will use photographs to compare the past and present.

We will be conducting historical enquiries finding out what clues and artefacts tell us about the past.

To make everything exciting we will explore toys from the past and learn how to decide whether a toy is old or new.

To start our topic, I would like every child to bring 5 pictures from birth to 5 years old (1 for each year) to school with them by Wednesday 8th September. We will be using these pictures to create a timeline and we will be analyzing the changes we can see.

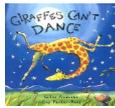
It would also be great if you could talk to your children more about their family history as they will have the opportunity to share this with the rest of the class.

## English

Our focus in writing to being this term is fairy tales. We will also be using a story map to help us remember the story of Little Red Riding Hood. Our main focus will be on using capital letters at the start of sentences, full stop to end sentences and finger spaces to separate words.



We will then move on to reading 'Giraffes can't dance' by Giles Andreae and Guy Parker-Rees.



We will be writing a letter and learning all about the features of a letter.

## Values

This half term we will have a focus on values and promoting the children's well-being through mindfulness.

Our whole school theme is:

**Peace.**

Our bible quote this term is:

*Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy' Hebrews 12.14*

In values we will be learning about 'being me and my world'. During these lessons we will be setting personal goals and identifying positive things about ourselves and achievements. We will also establish rules and responsibilities within the classroom and discuss the importance of staying safe.

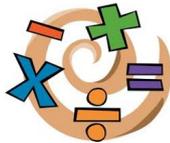


## Maths

This term we will focus on Place Value and consolidating any missed learning.

We will be:

- Finding one more and one less of a given number
- Representing numbers to 20
- Learning number bonds to 10
- Counting forwards and backwards in 1s and 10s.



Please continue to help your child with their understanding of number by counting real things (it could be anything) rather than just saying the numbers.

## Science

Our key question this term is: **What happens in different seasons?**

We will start by finding out lots of facts about the sun and why it changes position during the day. We will also be learning to order and compare the four seasons.

We will be working scientifically by observing over time. We will look at how trees change throughout the year. We started taking weekly pictures of a particular tree in the playground and now we will identify observed changes.



## Phonics

Phonics is part of our reading scheme. This term the children will build on their knowledge of the different sounds they learned in reception.

This term the sounds we will be focusing on are: a-e (make), i-e (like), ee (tree) o-e (phone), oo (moon), ar (car), ou (shout) c (ice-soft c) ay (play) ea (tea), or (corn) and ie (tie).

Please help your child by encouraging them to stretch and read each sound and then say it fast to blend.

## PE

We will have PE every Monday afternoon.

This term we will be focusing on

**games building agility, balance and**

**control as well as throwing and catching.** Please make sure that your child has the

