

Welcome new parents and carers.



Dear All!

I know how sad it is to leave behind the familiarity of the Reception classroom and the play experiences that your child has had over the last year but at St Paul's we have tricks up our sleeves! We've carefully planned a smooth transition to Year 1, despite our bubble restrictions of last term, which will help ease your child into more focused and formal learning. This year is all about bridging the gap between play and the more formal table-based learning in year 2. Please take advantage of the zoom session planned on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September (details to follow) to see the inside of our classroom and hear about our routines, expectations for learning and your integral role in your child's education.

### **Establishing routines & home learning**

The children will be given a reading book today (Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> September). With this will be a new reading record, I have no spare so please keep it safe. Inside the book will be your child's Google Classroom login information. All homework will be set on the Google Classroom so it's important that you let me know if you are unable to login or access online learning. You can do this by notifying the office. Please send your child's reading record to school daily and sign every time they read with you. It is expected that they read a little, three times a week. It may take a while for us to hear to individual readers and assess their level so please bear with us over the next week or so. If your child's book is too easy or hard then please let us know and we can re-level them or ensure they get a more difficult book within their book band. Books will be changed on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Comprehension is key. Please remind your child to put their book in the box on those days.

### **Home learning**

Home learning will be set on the Google Classroom and will consist of different experiences at the beginning of the year and will be more written and investigative towards the end. There will be spellings and these will consist of the high frequency words that your child is expected to know by the end of year 1. Their spelling score will be recorded in their reading record on a Friday after their test. New spellings and home learning will be set on a Friday afternoon.

### **Name labels**

Please ensure that your child's cardigan, jumpers, coat, bag and water bottle is clearly labelled. Many weren't yesterday and getting 29 children ready for home time

can be tricky when things aren't labelled. A 5-minute job takes 25 minutes without labels! Please help them to be independent and recognise their name on their labels. I also have a pink water bottle that's unlabelled so if it's your child's please come and claim it. I won't set you detention so close to the start of term.

## **P.E**

PE will be held on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons so please send your child suitably dressed on those days. We will be focussing on catching and throwing this term and we will also be doing some outdoor forest-type activities, noticing the autumnal changes. Towards the wetter weather I will ask you to bring in wellies and waterproofs so keep your eye out in Lidl for a bargain waterproof splash suit!

So, in short

**Monday-** school uniform

**Tuesday-** book change & PE or possible outside learning

**Wednesday-** PE kit or possible outside learning

**Thursday-** book change

**Friday-** homework hand in on Google Classroom or homework box at drop off, spelling test and new homework set.

## **Parent Volunteers**

We are now able to have parent helpers in to support things like reading, art, which is on a Friday afternoon, and general tidying and sorting of classroom and resources. If you think you could give some time, even if it is 30 minutes on a Friday afternoon to reset the outdoor area once a month, then your help would be greatly received.

## **Communication**

Despite not being in bubbles, we are encouraging parents to collect and exit the playground promptly. With this in mind, I may contact you after school with any messages. If you wish to discuss anything then please contact me via the school email and I will respond as soon as I can. Please don't hold onto concerns but share them with me as soon as they arise.

Thank you in advance for supporting your child this year. Let's make it a great one!

Miss Olive and the team.