



19th April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had an enjoyable Easter break - Welcome Back to the Summer Term! The children are very pleased to be back, to see their friends and have been settling back into school routines.

Theme: Our theme for this half term is "In My Garden", which is a lovely topic for the summer. We have ongoing activities for this term of growing, planting, caring for the environment, and observing minibeads. As you know, we began the term with an exciting event, our Eid party! (See Class Dojo) We would welcome some donations to help us with our outdoor themes this term and next:

- Bags of compost or grow bags
- Flowerpots or larger plant pots
- Any spare plants – flowers or vegetables!
- Old decorators paint brushes

Staffing: Miss Park will continue to teach the children when I take my PPA and Leadership time on a Friday and at other times when I may be attending a meeting or training. Mrs Wright will continue to work with us this, as will Mrs Walker on a Tuesday afternoon when will do our Welly Walks. Our regular volunteers, Mrs Baker (Singing) and Mrs Smith (Reading) will be with us each week too!

Spring Weather: Please ensure children have suitable clothing in school for the weather, especially a warm, waterproof coat! Wellies can be left at school in the cubby hole under your child's peg. We do have some spares for children to borrow. If your child wears wellies to school, please remember to bring other shoes to change into and wear indoors. Although the weather is getting warmer it can still be cold in the classroom, so it's still a good idea for children to wear layers and bring a cardigan or jumper too!

All items of clothing must be clearly named – Thank you.

Supporting your child at home:

- Please continue to read with your child and record your comments in the yellow Reading Record book. Everyone now has a range of reading material – "Going Home Books" to share for pleasure, a phonic based book or paper ditty and a Book Bands book. These books have coloured "Going Home" stickers, (pink, red, yellow or blue) and as a mix of different books they are really useful for children to practice their phonics. Please be aware that sometimes you will need to tell your child a word as they will come across words that cannot be sounded out.
- All Rainbow Families are free to use the reading library in the wooden shed in the car park – it is open every day!
- Don't forget to continue to use Doodle Maths at home.
- Our weekly notice about the things we have covered in school will be posted onto Class Dojo with some ideas for you to follow up at home too.

In addition to reading, you can help your child to:

- Learn to read and write the Read Write Inc "Speed Sounds" we are learning at school.
- Write lower case letters with the correct formation i.e. using the Read Write Inc "patter" such as "round the apple and down the leaf" for a.
- The children are enjoying writing at the moment and there are lots of ways to support this at home, e.g. writing a shopping list, birthday cards, or messages to family members. Post It notes are a great way to encourage writing, eg for notes or messages but also for labels, eg making a post-it note label to stick in each room in the house, eg hall, porch, kitchen etc.

Attendance: Please remember that permission for time off must be sought by collecting a Leave of Absence form, from St Andrew's school office, (or via the school website) and completed at least two weeks in advance.

More donations! The children really enjoy the contributions for snack time last term, so thank you for these. If you are able to send a box of tissues or a packet of wet wipes these will also be gratefully received! In addition, there are other things that we can make use of:

- Old birthday cards and envelopes.
- Boxes, bottles, egg boxes, tubes etc for junk modelling (clean and dry please!)
- Spoons, scoops, yoghurt "buckets", plastic picnic sets, sand toys for outdoor play, and child sized table (eg from Ikea) - if you are getting rid of any of these things, please do consider us!

Parking: As you are aware Headington Quarry is a Controlled Parking Zone and there are many staff cars squeezed into the car park, so please remember not to ride bikes or scooters in the car park (adults and children!) Children should also not be running around in the car park or playing on the grassy slope or steps but should wait alongside the adult they are with. Thank you for your co-operation; this helps to keep everyone safe.

Reminders: If your child has been sick or had diarrhoea, please keep them away from school until they have been free from symptoms for 48 hours. If your child is not attending school, please phone us each morning. As part of our safeguarding procedures all parents will be phoned if their child is absent without explanation, so it is very important that we have an up-to-date contact number. Please let us know if someone other than parents/carers or regular people are collecting your child.

Uniform and Transition: Next term we will be visiting St Andrew's and preparing for the transition to Year 1 (More details to follow). One change is that the children will be required to wear school uniform in Year 1. The summer term is a good opportunity for children to get used to this in Rainbow Group! We have a large amount of "pre-loved" (!) uniform that has been donated to school and will be available to Rainbow families soon, children can also wear plain blue uniform available from supermarkets, or you can purchase new uniform with the St Andrew's logo. If it is not convenient for your child to wear uniform this term can you please ensure that your child is wearing clothes that are suitable for school.

Here is information on uniform that will apply from Year 1:

[school-uniform-policy-2023.pdf \(primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com\)](https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/school-uniform-policy-2023.pdf)

[School Trends](#)

And Finally...

We look forward to the rest of the term and many sunnier days. As the weather gets warmer, please remember that children should have a named hat in school and have sun cream applied before school. Thank you.

As always, please let us know if you have any concerns and we will do our best to help.

Yours sincerely,

Annie Arnold, Susannah van den Broek, Tamar Fernandez