

St Andrew's C E Primary School
London Road, Headington,
Oxford, OX3 9ED
Telephone: 01865-762396
www.st-andrews-pri.oxon.sch.uk
office.3211@st-andrews-pri.oxon.sch.uk
Headteacher Mrs Jo Holmes



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you and your children are feeling happy and settled as members of the Reception Class and St Andrew's school. The children enjoyed their visits and we are looking forward to full days of school. Please remember that starting in Reception is a huge change for children and each child is different. There may be tears and upset, toilet accidents, tiredness and poor sleep, etc while they are adjusting to full time school in a class with 29 other children!

Theme:

Our overarching theme for Term 1 is "Welcome to St Andrew's" with the core books "Ruby's Worry" "Goldilocks" and "The Little Red Hen". (Please see topic web attached).

Reception Baseline Assessment:

As part of entry to the Reception class all children will participate in the DFE's Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA). This provides us with a snapshot of where children are on entering our school and will help us support them accordingly. Over the next few weeks, each child will complete a short 1:1 assessment with me covering activities based around literacy, communication, language, and maths. For further details please see this document :

[Reception baseline assessment: information for parents](#)

Class Dojo:

We now have many of our families connected to Class Dojo (at least one parent). Please check your email (including spam folder) for the invitation if you haven't yet joined. Please take a look at Class Dojo regularly for messages relevant to our class and information about things to work on at home. In addition, you can check the St Andrew's School "story" too, for other information. You can also contact me via the message option if you need to.

ParentPay:

Hopefully, everyone will also be able to join ParentPay soon! Please check that you have made payments for book bags, water bottles and there is also an option for a donation towards additional food and drink for snack times. Thank you.

Books:

The children will receive their books bags towards the end of next week and will be able to take a "Going Home Book" a few times each week. We have a large selection of picture story books (and some poetry books!) that are suitable for sharing together to encourage an enthusiasm for books in the early stages of learning to read. Please share the book together at home and record your comments in the yellow book. After a few weeks of phonics teaching your child will begin to receive books to practice sound blending – more details to follow. It is helpful if children have their reading folders in school every day, as we can use them to transport letters and pictures home! Please keep the reading book and reading record book together in the folder as this helps avoid books getting lost. Thank you for your co-operation.

Autumn Weather:

Please ensure children have suitable clothing in school for the weather, especially a waterproof coat and waterproof shoes/boots as the term goes on. Please make sure that all school uniform is named as there are lots of items of clothing that look the same! Wellies can be left at school under your

child's peg, but if your child wears wellies to school please make sure that they have other shoes to change into and wear indoors, especially on very wet or snowy days!

Birthdays

Some children like to celebrate their birthday by bringing in a treat to share with the class, but there is no obligation to do so. We have some whole school Birthday Guidance which was included in your Starting School information, so please refer to this for birthday treats and other celebrations.

Snack:

All children are offered some fruit and a drink during the session, so there is no need for food/drink or water bottles to be brought to school other than for packed lunch.

Nuts:

We would like to remind you that we are a nut free school so please take care to ensure that there are no nuts or nut products such as Nutella or peanut butter in children's lunchboxes or birthday treats. Thank you for your co-operation.

Staffing:

This year Mrs Band will be joining us every Wednesday and covering my leadership time and PPA time. Our teaching assistants this year are Mrs Gemma Witney, Mrs Jo Vesterinen, Mrs Becky Howard and Miss Natalie Jones, who are all very experienced in working with young children. They all work over the lunchtime period too, which provides continuity for the children. Mrs Holmes (Headteacher) and Mrs Wright (Deputy Headteacher) will also join us in the canteen and this will enable us to make a great start to our "family dining" with the children trying new foods, using cutlery, and clearing their own tables.

Getting Involved in Reception:

There are many ways that families can become involved in school life at St Andrew's:

- Sending in donations such as resources for junk modelling, etc
- Donating coffee grounds, (from your home or a local coffee shop!) or pots/plants for our Growing Garden.
- Coming to talk to the class about your job, or a special event that is happening in your family such as Eid.
- Supporting in our upcoming SASA events (next up is the International Evening)
- Attending our Workshop and Coffee Mornings for parents – more details to follow

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 for any reason, please phone St Andrew's office in the morning and they will update the online register.
- Please remember to let us know if someone other than parents/carers or regular people are collecting your child.
- Please avoid using your phone in the playground at drop off and pickup times.

Dates :

Friday 18th September	SASA International Evening (A fun evening for all! It is lovely if you can bring a dish of food to share).
Tuesday 13th October	Parent teacher meetings
Wednesday 14th October	Parent teacher meetings
Monday 19th – Thursday 22nd October	Deep Learning week – more information to follow
Friday 23rd October	INSET Day – no children in school
Monday 26th – Friday 30th October	Half Term break (Children return to school on Monday 2 nd November).

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And Finally...

Please talk to us if you have any concerns about your child; sometimes we may need some time to follow up on a situation that may have arisen, and check with all members of staff, but we will usually be able to do this during the course of the day and report back to you. Please do talk with us first, rather than approaching other parents, so that we can ensure we have all the correct information available; we can then talk to individual parents if it is necessary.

Thank you for your co-operation in all these matters. We look forward to the rest of the term and getting to know you and your children.

Yours sincerely,

Annie Arnold - Reception Class Teacher.