



9<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new term and a "Happy New Year!" Thank you for your cards, thoughtful and generous gifts and good wishes at the end of last term. We hope you had a restful and enjoyable break with your family over the Christmas period.

**Theme:** We have settled back into the term by learning about Epiphany, and experiencing first hand, the season of Winter! Our main theme for Term 3 is "**We Love Books**" where we will be learning about different types of books, characters, and settings, and telling our own stories. In addition, we will be learning about changes in seasons, our local environment and enjoying a skipping workshop. This week we will complete our first walk in the local area, by walking to see the Nativity scene outside Corpus Christi Church in Headington, and we will be visiting Bury Knowle library later in the term. Our core stories this term are "Luna Loves the Library", "I love books" and "Jack and the Beanstalk". We will end the term with an exciting focus on Art with the Young Art Oxford competition.

**Supporting your child at home:** Please continue to read with your child and record your comments in the Reading Record book when you can. This term your child will have different books in their book bag:

- A **Library Book** issued by Mrs Walker each Thursday.
- A **Phonics Book** from our Read Write Inc phonics scheme – this will be matched to your child's current learning in phonics and will be able to read this independently.
- A **Book Bands Book** – this is for shared reading with your child and in some books, they will be able to practice phonics that they have already learned. (Some children may still have a "**Going Home Book**" until they are ready to read a phonics book)
- Please keep all the books together in the book bag and bring it to school each day.

Class Dojo will show talking points from adult led teaching during the week and an activity that you may like to do at home. There is a section on vocabulary, so you can discuss some of the new and exciting words we have been learning at school. I will continue to post sheets for new phonic sounds as we cover them.

### Reminders:

<i>If your child is not attending school due to illness you must contact St Andrew's office each morning to let us know (01865 762396)</i>	<i>Children should not bring any toys in. Toys in school can cause upset and frustration for children ...but I'm happy to take a peek at the something special at the gate!</i>	<i>If your child would like a hot school dinner on these cold days, there is no need to book in advance. Just let us know in the morning!</i>	<i>If your child has been sick or had diarrhoea, they must stay away from school until they have been <u>free from symptoms for 48 hours</u>.</i>

<i>Please bring book bags every day!</i>	<i>Please let us know if someone other than parents/carers or regular people are collecting your child.</i>	<i>Please ensure your child is wearing sensible shoes that are suitable for a day at school and that they can put them on and take them off by themselves where possible!</i>	<i>If your child needs any time off, this must be requested by filling in a Leave of Absence form and returning this to the office at least 2 weeks before the date requested.</i>
--	---	---	--

Thank you for your co-operation in all these matters.

**Weather & Clothing:** Please try to make sure that your children wear suitable clothing to school. I would also ask you to avoid things such as large hairbands, clumpy footwear, and jewellery as this can prove very distracting for children during our group times. If children wear wellies or boots to school, please make sure they have some other shoes or slippers to wear indoors. This will help prevent our carpets becoming very muddy or dirty and be more comfortable for children whilst sitting on the carpet. Please make sure EVERYTHING is named, including gloves, scarves, hats and “school uniform” jumpers, well as other clothes. It is much easier and quicker to match named items to their owners!

**Staffing:** This term my PPA and Leadership time will continue to be on a Wednesday and will be covered by Mrs Eleanor Marsden.

**Snack Time:** We have a snack time twice a day in Reception with the free fruit and vegetables provided by the School Fuit and Vegetable Scheme (SFVS). This is a lovely time in our day, and we like to include extras such as crackers, rice cakes, cheese, and cucumber. We now have an option on ParentPay where you can make a voluntary donation to help cover the cost of additional foods. Thank you.

**Wishlist :** Following the success of our Advent Tree I have created a class “Wishlist” where you can see the things that we are looking for to help with resourcing in the classroom. Please take a look: [St Andrew's School - Reception Class Wishlist - Things To Get Me](#)

### Reports :

Children in Reception will not receive a mid-term report in the same way as pupils in Years 1–6 this term, but you will receive a full report at the end of the academic year. Assessment in EYFS is ongoing throughout the year and is based on continuous observation of your child’s learning and development. In September we completed the Baseline assessment and in June we will complete the EYFS Profile. This will form the basis of your child’s end of year report. There will be an opportunity to discuss your child’s progress at parents’ meetings at the end of March but do feel free to contact me at any time if you have concerns or need more information on how your child is progressing at school.

Please see our class page on the school website for lots of useful information on phonics, assessment and our curriculum.

[St Andrew's Church of England Primary School, Oxford - Reception](#)

### And finally...

We look forward to the rest of the term and the arrival of spring with more of the warmer, sunnier weather!

Yours sincerely,

Annie Arnold,  
*Reception Class Teacher*