

St Andrew's C E Primary School
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Headteacher Mrs Jo Holmes



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you and your children are feeling happy and settled as members of Rainbow Group. The children are settling into the new routines very well. Please remember that starting in Reception is a big 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 "There's Only One Me" with the core books "Owl Babies" "The Enormous Turnip" 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 up 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 the document for parents attached with this letter.

Class Dojo:

I hope that everyone has managed to sign up to Class Dojo. Please check Class Dojo regularly for messages relevant to Rainbow Group and St Andrew's School as well as information for HQFSS such as the menu for school dinners. In a few weeks you will find information about things to work on at home. If you have already connected to Class Dojo with HQFSS or with older siblings please also accept the invitation from Rainbow Group too, to ensure that any messages you send do come to me on the correct class page.

ParentPay:

Mrs Coyne will send out log in details to sign up to ParentPay, where you will be able to pay for things such as trips or clubs throughout your child's time at St Andrew's. The first payment will be Book Bags and water bottles and will be available this week.

Books:

We begin issuing the children with their books bags towards the end of next week. Initially the children will receive a "Going Home Book" a few times each week. We have a large selection of picture story books (and also 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:

Currently, the weather is more like summer, so please make sure that children have suncream applied at home and have a named hat to bring to school. If your child has chosen to wear uniform please make sure that it is named as there are lots of items of clothing that look the same! Since the children will often be engaged in messy play please do not send them in their best clothes! Please ensure children have suitable clothing in school for the weather, especially a waterproof coat and waterproof shoes/boots as the term goes on.

Wellies can be left at school in the cubby hole under your child's peg. 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!

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

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 of water or milk during the session, so there is no need for food or drink to be brought to school other than for packed lunch.

Nuts:

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

Staffing:

This year Mrs Wright (Deputy Headteacher from St Andrew's) will be joining us every Friday and covering my leadership time on alternate Friday mornings. Miss Park will be taking the class whilst I do my PPA on a Friday and at other times when I may need to attend meetings, courses etc. Our teaching assistants this year are Miss Susannah van den Broek and Mrs Tamar Fernandez. They both work over the lunchtime period too which provides continuity for the children and are joined by Mrs Vani Radna our lunchtime supervisor.

Attendance:

Children's attendance at school is vital and good attendance and punctuality is expected from every child. 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 this must be completed at least two weeks in advance.

[Leave of Absence Request Form \(office.com\)](#)
[st-andrews-absence-leave-form-14062019.pdf \(primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com\)](#)

Donations:

We would like to ask all families to donate a box of tissues and/or wet wipes to help us through the approaching “winter cold” period! The children love cheese, crackers and rice cakes too, and this adds a little variation to our snack time, so if you are able to send a donation occasionally these will be gratefully received! (Please ensure these are nut free)

Forest School:

I am very pleased to tell you that we offer Forest School sessions to our children, led by Mrs Stewart and this will begin in Term 2.

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 (01865 762396)
- Please remember to let us know if someone other than parents/carers or regular people are collecting your child.

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

Dates Summary:

<i>Fri 15th Sept</i>	<i>Fri 15th September – International Evening</i>
<i>Fri 13th Oct</i>	<i>Flu Vaccinations – details to follow</i>
<i>Mon 18th & Tues 19th Oct</i>	<i>Parent Meetings at St Andrew’s – details to follow</i>

Dates tbc:

Harvest Festival & Festival of Faith.

Please note we do not celebrate Halloween at St Andrew’s so there is no need for children to dress up or bring sweets, toys etc. Thank you.

And Finally...

We look forward to the rest of the term. Please talk to us if you have any concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Annie Arnold - Reception Class Teacher.