



23 Feb 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you had an enjoyable break with your children last week and “Welcome Back” to the second half of the Spring Term! It feels as if we have had Spring and Winter this week already! The children have enjoyed looking for the signs that Spring is on its way. Please check on Class Dojo to see what else we have been learning about this week and things you can do at home.

Theme:

Our theme for this term is “Once Upon a Time” where we will be celebrating World Book Day, thinking about keeping healthy, and focussing on the 3 Billy Goats Gruff, farm animals and Spring. Please see the topic web attached. We are grateful for the donations sent in for our workshop and writing areas such as tubes, lids, wrapping paper, ribbons, boxes, and envelopes and old cards and production has been “full on” in these areas this week! Please remember you can encourage the children to recycle by “deconstructing” their models and sending them back to us!

Supporting your child at home:

Here are some ways that you can support your child at home:

- Using the small Read Write Inc phonics book (Set 1 sounds – Green, Set 2 sounds - yellow) These books help children revisit the sounds we have learned at school and have space to practice letter formation.
- Sharing stories and books together. It is an exciting time now, as children are developing their phonics skills and can often read some simple words in the text of story books, so it’s a great way to read together.
- Doodle Maths – all children have a login for Doodle maths and can work through maths problems and skills that are focused on their individual level.
- Tales Tool Kit – this term, we are focussing on using 4 symbols from Tales Tool kit to help the children develop their understanding of stories. More information to follow on Class Dojo.
- Handwriting: This term our handwriting sessions will focus on “ Handwriting Families” where we learn sets of letters that have a similar formation eg, c,o,a,d,g,q. Look out for more information on Class Dojo.

Weather & Clothing:

Please continue to ensure children are wearing suitable indoor clothes during the changeable weather this term – we would suggest that they wear layers i.e., vest, long sleeved top, sweatshirt/cardigan etc. They will still need a warm/waterproof coat, hat and gloves! Don’t forget that children are welcome to wear a blue “uniform” style sweatshirt or jumper to school to identify themselves as members of St Andrew’s school as well as part of HQFSS! Wellies can be left at school too, but please can you make sure EVERYTHING is clearly labelled with your child’s name – matching lost property with the correct owner is so much easier when this is the case. Thank you

Outdoor Learning:

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer Forest School this year, but after a trial run on Tuesday I am pleased to say that we can now offer “Welly Walks” in the local area, with a focus on some

outdoor learning. These will take place each Tuesday afternoon. I will take half the class with a TA on alternate weeks; the remainder of the class will stay at school with Mrs Walker and a TA...all in all a fun afternoon for everyone! If you would like to accompany us on a Welly Walk please let me know; one extra adult per session would be very helpful. Children will need wellies, a waterproof coat and waterproof trousers (if they have some) for this activity.

PSHE:

Through our PSHE teaching, each week we have a focussed Circle Time, where we learn vocabulary to help us recognise and discuss our feelings. This term we will begin to talk about Zones of Regulation, where children identify which zone they are in according to their feelings and how they can get back to the Green Zone (feeling ok) ie by learning ways to calm down. Some children may have done this in their nursery or may have used the story The Colour Monster to help with talking about their feelings. There are some other things we do at school that children could practice at home which will help in their day-to-day school lives!

- Putting on their coat, hat, gloves etc by themselves and trying to do it up!
- Putting coats, shoes, and bags away tidily at home.
- Tidying up their own toys when they have finished playing with them.
- Saying the words “please”, “thank you” & “excuse me please” to other people – children and adults!
- Trying to use a knife and fork when eating meals at the table.
- Listening to other people when they are talking & following instructions (we call this Listen and Do at school!)

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.
- Please help your children to be safe and respectful in the car park. I would expect them (and their siblings!) to be standing alongside you whilst waiting for the gate to be opened - The nursery children have different session times to us and have sometimes been disturbed by children running up and down the ramp and steps outside their part of the building. The spring flowers are also emerging; we would love to see them in full bloom so please avoid walking on the area under the trees next to the black fence.

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

Thurs 7th Mar	World Book Day – details to follow
Wed 20 th Mar	Farms2Ewe visit – details to follow.
Tues 26 th Mar	Class Teacher Meetings at St Andrew’s
Fri 22 nd Mar	NCMP Checks – see letter emailed for details.
Wed 27th Mar	Class Teacher Meetings at St Andrew’s
TBC	Spring Celebration – details to follow.
Thurs 28th Mar	End of Term Easter Holiday – 1 pm finish.

And Finally...

This term is always an enjoyable with so many festivals and events to celebrate, and the arrival of warmer and brighter weather! As always, do please talk to us if you have any concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Annie Arnold, Susannah van den Broek, Tamar Fernandez
EYFS Staff