

St Andrew's C E Primary School
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Oxford, OX3 9ED
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January 2024

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 celebrating 3 Kings Day, an important festival for Mrs Fernandez and experiencing first hand, the season of Winter! Our main theme for Term 3 is "***Into The Woods***" where we will be focussing on changes in seasons, and our local environment and thinking about storytelling. Our core story for this term is Goldilocks and the 3 Bears, and the whole topic will link in with the nursery planning at Headington Quarry.

Supporting your child at home: Please continue to read with your child and record your comments in the Reading Record book when you can. Please keep "Going Home Books" and phonics books together in the book bag and bring it to school each day. Our notice "What have we been doing in Rainbow Group" provides 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.

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 dressing up clothes, 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. I would also advise wearing layers during the colder months, i.e., vest, long sleeved top, sweatshirt/cardigan etc.. Finally, 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!









Parental Concerns: As always, do please talk to us if you have any concerns about your child or any aspect of their education. You can talk to any of the staff in person or contact us via either office email address or contact me via Class Dojo. The message option in Class Dojo is confidential and is only seen by me. Please remember that sometimes we may not be able to answer your questions instantly and we may need to investigate any incidents that have happened, but we will do so as soon as we are able. Thank you.

Donations: Thank you to everyone who has donated tissues, wet wipes and food for snack times this year. Please remember if you do send a donation for snack, it should not be biscuits, only plain crackers, breadsticks or rice cakes...or occasionally cheddar cheese. We would also welcome donations of cucumber and peppers.

Hygiene: We will be continuing to teach the children about good hygiene around handwashing and coughs/sneezes and would really appreciate donations of boxes of tissues and wet wipes again this term.

Staffing: This term my PPA and Leadership time will continue to be covered by Mrs Mary Wright and Miss Alice Park on a Friday. Miss Park may also cover on other occasions when I may be attending training or meetings.

Reminders:

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

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

And finally...

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

Yours sincerely,

Annie Arnold, Susannah van den Broek, Tamar Fernandez.
Rainbow Group staff