

News from the Early Years Team

Welcome back

Dear Parents / Carers,

A huge 'Early Years' welcome to all of you joining us this year at St. Mary's. We hope you have enjoyed a wonderful summer and join us in looking forward to a fantastic year in the Foundation Stage!



Our first topic this year is 'Families and Friends' where we will be encouraging the children to get to know each other and discuss their likes and dislikes. This will lead onto the children exploring any particular interests they have as well as learning about the changes in seasons.



Next half term our topic is "Autumn". Take your child for a nature walk in your local area at the weekends or in the half term holidays and talk to them about the change in the season. Days getting shorter and nights getting longer. How it's getting colder and change in clothing.

Please collect conkers and acorns and send them to school as we will be using them in our provision.



Literacy

We will begin to teach reading and writing through the phonics scheme Letters and Sounds. New letter sounds will be introduced daily to the children (Upper Early Years) and they will soon begin to recognise and write individual sounds and start to blend sounds together to read short words. Lower Early Years will be introduced to environmental sounds through the scheme Letters and sounds. All children will be given the opportunity to practise these sounds at home.



Maths

In mathematics the focus is on counting, recognising, writing and ordering numbers within ten (Upper Early Years). The children will be saying which numbers are 'more or less' as well as estimating and checking amounts. We will also be recognising, creating and describing shapes and patterns using mathematical language. Lower Early Years will be focusing on reciting numbers to 10, estimating the number of objects, and beginning to represent numbers to 5. We will also be recognising simple shapes in the environment and using positional language.

Uniform

All children in Early Years should wear green jogging bottoms or shorts with a school yellow polo t-shirt and green jumper or cardigan with the school logo.

Please **label** all clothing and shoes clearly with your child's name as it will help us to find them easily if your child misplaces any of them.

Upper Early Years are allowed to bring in a water bottle to school. Bottles should be clear and should have a sports cap and clearly marked with their name. No flavoured water or juice please.

Book Bags

Please ensure that children bring their book bags to school every day. Book bags should be labelled clearly with your child's name. No more than 1 key-ring on the book bags please.

Letters

Please send all letters via your child's book bag as it is difficult for the adults to collect it at the door in the mornings.

Can you help us?

- Collecting and sending in crafty bits or box modelling for use by the children in their play, including unwanted rolls of wallpaper for the children to draw or 'write' on the back of.
- Lending us artefacts, story books and information books and anything else linked to our topics.
- Donations of unwanted toys, dressing up clothes and books in good condition. We are in the process of replacing some of our plastic resources with more natural

wooden pots, pans, jugs, utensils or baskets we could put them to good use!



- Also please come and speak to one of us if you have any expertise or links to the topics we are doing throughout the year and would like to share these with the children.

Photo

Finally, as part of our 'Families and Friends' topic we would like each child to bring in a photo of themselves to share and talk about how they have grown and changed. The photo could be a print out or photocopy as we would like to stick their picture into their Brilliant brain book.

Thank you for your continuous support. We hope that you and your child have a great first term. Please do not hesitate to come and see us with any queries or concerns, no matter how small.

On behalf of the Early Years Team
Mrs. Chandarana
Assistant Headteacher