

Class 4 Curricular Letter

Autumn Term 1



Dear Parents,

We would like to wish you and the children a very warm welcome to Class 4! We are Emma Smith and Jenny Leap and we are extremely excited to be teaching your child over the next academic year. Emma will be teaching the children every morning with a focus Literacy, Phonics and Maths and Jenny will teach every afternoon covering guided reading, science, PE and the full range of foundation subjects. After a very strange end to last year, we are excited to begin the new year and can't wait to get to know the children better. Alongside us during the week will be our brilliant teaching assistants, Wendy Crook and Lisa Towers who are eager to begin our year. If you have any queries, concerns, or simply a question, please don't hesitate to send either of us an email, we will be more than happy to help! Our emails are e.smith@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk and j.leap@st-georges.lancs.sch.uk.



The first topic that we will be exploring together is 'Who Lives in the Woods?' We will be exploring the woodland areas in our school grounds, thinking about the animals and plants that live there and how we should take care of areas such as this. Please take some time to talk to your children about the topic, read books and stories, watch programmes and think of some questions they can explore in class.

The Half Term Ahead

Science-
Living Things
and their
Habitats

Literacy-
Tidy by Emily
Gravett.
How tidy are
you?

Create artwork in
the style of The
Great Wave off
Kanagawa by
Katsushika
Hokusa

Literacy-
Write a non-
chronological
report about a
woodland creature

RE: Harvest
celebration

Geography-
Continents and
Oceans- Where
in the world
have you

Practise general
P.E. skills- Can you
throw and catch?

Days to Remember

Monday

Book bags sent home

New spellings sent
home

PE

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Book bags collected in

Celebration Assembly

Literacy

The children will be continuing with their learning from previous years; looking at letter formations, learning the sounds (**phonemes**) of the alphabet and reading and writing progressively more complex words. Parents are encouraged to continue to discuss sounds and letter names within words, write lower and upper case letters correctly and practise decoding (sounding out) words to spell. In Year 1 we will begin the year by ensuring children can write simple sentences that make sense using capital letters, full stops and finger spaces. This really is the foundation to good writing and once

these skills are concrete we will begin to add in skills to build more complex sentences. In Year 2, we will build on these skills but also focus on using a range of joining words in our sentences.

Reading will be of great importance throughout the year and the children will participate in whole class reading sessions, take part in one guided group reading session a week with their teacher and all of the children will have the opportunity to read and discuss their book individually. Children will have reading books at home from Monday to Friday and will continue to access books at their own level within school.

How you can help at home?

- Talk to your child about the phonemes and 'tricky' words that we have been learning at school.
- Read with your child at home on a regular basis, modelling how to sound individual phonemes, digraphs & trigraphs and blend them together.
- When writing independently, encourage your child to use their knowledge of phonics to make their own attempts at spelling whilst using a correct pencil grip.
- Read a selection of books based on our literacy topics and talk in detail about the topic.
- Encourage children to ask questions when reading as well as answering questions about the text.
- Explore our literacy topics in different ways e.g. trips, drama, crafts etc.

Mathematics

The children's mathematical development is furthered through whole class work, through focused activities in small groups with an adult and through play. This work will continue to be focused around practical work, but we will begin to record work more often in various different forms. This half term we begin our work on Singapore maths using the 'Maths No Problem text books.' In Year 1 this half term we will be learning about Numbers to 10, Number bonds within 10 and addition and subtraction within 10. In Year 2 we will be learning Number to 100 and Addition and Subtraction within 100.

How you can help at home?

- Help your child to recognise and order the numbers and write numbers correctly.
- Support children in practising addition, subtraction, using practical resources.
- Encourage your child to use appropriate mathematical vocabulary, such as 'heavier', 'heaviest', 'lighter', 'lightest'.
- Practise finding one more and one less than any number from 1-10 and then further.
- Practise reciting days of the week and months of the year.

Target Setting

Target setting has changed at St George's in line with the new National Curriculum. The government have decided to get rid of levels (e.g. 1c, 2a, 4b) and instead children will be judged each year against their own Year Group objectives. At the end of each term children will be assessed as either entering, developing or secure in their year group e.g. Year 1 secure. Please note that children are able to move into a different year group's learning as appropriate. As such we have devised writing and maths targets based on the core learning for each year group- please keep in mind that these are not all of the objectives children are expected to meet.

Attached are the core learning targets for your year group- please work on a variety of these with your child to support their progress in the curriculum. At both parent's evening and class call in you will have opportunity to look at children's target sheets which are kept in their books.

Should you have any questions or queries about the new targets, please do not hesitate to come and ask!

Reading Books

In the current circumstances we will be changing children's reading books once a week on a **Monday**. This will include 2/3 books depending on the length of book your child is reading. Reading bags should not be brought back into school until **Friday**. Book bags will be kept in school over the weekend and changed the next week. Children have opportunities to read during daily phonics, as part of a group (guided reading) and independently with school staff and reading volunteers. New books should be recorded in the reading record book kept in your child's book bag.

Please continue to add comments about your child's reading in the reading record book since practitioners use this as an indicator to see whether a book needs changing or not. Children are expected to read at home with an adult every day if possible for about fifteen minutes. If your child reads their own books at home, please feel free to make a note of this in their reading records. We do encourage children to read at home on a daily basis and advocate reading books more than once to build up children's fluency and comprehension skills.

Notes for Parents

- We aim to read with children twice a week individually (this may be with a member of staff or a parent volunteer) and once in a group guided reading session, and as stated above, we do encourage children to read at home on a daily basis.
- On Mondays your child will be receiving a set of 5 spellings based on high frequency and tricky words, Please practise these with your child daily.
- Children will continue to bring home their 'Home Learning Book' each half term with their homework menu. This will contain an explanation of the topic that we have been working on and ways that you could explore this with your child. Please continue to be inventive and imaginative with the tasks, not only do we love to see it, but it also helps to inspire and engage the children.
- Please ensure all belongings are labelled with your child's name, so if lost, they can be easily returned to you.
- Please ensure your child has a school PE kit on their peg at all times. We will send them home each half term.
- The school provides children with a piece of fruit each day. If you would prefer your child to bring his/her own snack to school, please keep in mind that we are a healthy school and it should be a piece of fruit or veg (no nuts).
- Children are encouraged to bring a drinks bottle to school each day, filled with water. A water fountain is also available in school for children to use at their leisure.
- We will be going outside often during the year, so please remember to send in named waterproof coats.

Over the coming year, the children's learning will change from their time in Reception and will become more focused and independent. This should be a smooth transition for the children, and the curriculum will continue to be filled with enjoyable and fun activities that will enhance and bring out the best in their learning. In addition, the school website has plenty of ideas on helping your child. Click on 'Parent Zone' and then 'Supporting My Child's Progress' for lots of great ideas. We look forward to your continued support during the year.

We look forward to meeting you all at our parents evening in November, but again we urge you to email or call us at school should you have any queries.

Many thanks,

Emma Smith
Class 4 Teacher

Jenny Leap
Class 4 Teacher

Michelle Yates
Assistant Headteacher