

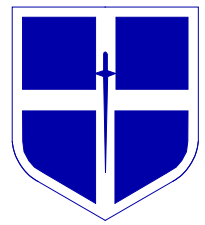
# ST PAUL'S C of E COMBINED SCHOOL

Stratford Drive, Wooburn Green, Bucks HP10 0QH

Headteacher: Mrs Charlotte Dennis

Tel: 01628 521553

E-Mail: [office@stpaulswooburn.school](mailto:office@stpaulswooburn.school)



September 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to Reception! We have a fun-filled year ahead of us and I can't wait to share your child's journey with you at St Paul's.

## **Drop off and collecting**

We have started this term off really positively and I would like you to continue to encourage your child to say goodbye to you at the gate, before walking into class independently. If your child requires a little more time to adjust, we ask that parents leave the playground promptly once their child has said goodbye in order for us to secure the school site. The gates open at 8:35am, and close at 8:45am.

To ensure the safety of your child at the end of the day, please ensure that we know who is picking your child up from school each day (if this is not yourself.) If your child is going to be collected by someone different, including play dates, please ensure that you send a message into school, either by sending in a note, or by emailing the school office.

Your child will not be dismissed to anyone that is not 'familiar' to the school (even if a note has been handed in), therefore if the person who is collecting your child is not known to the school (i.e. not another parent or someone we have met before), please provide us and them with a password. The password will be requested before your child is dismissed. Please be aware that we are unable to take the word from your child about who they are going home with, a note is required.

## **Daily kit**

To aid a smooth transition into school for your child and to help them settle into school life as quickly as possible, please assist your child by ensuring that they have everything they need in school each day. Book bags are required in school every day and should be carried into class each day by your child. Please also ensure that your child has a water bottle, filled with water only, in school daily.

Reception will have a physical focus session on Tuesday and Wednesday. Please send your child to school in their PE kit, ensuring that they are dressed for the weather.

## **Wellies, wet weather and the Wonder Woodlands**

We will also be starting to visit our school woodlands very soon. More details to follow, however, to help us get prepared, please could you send in a pair of named wellies that can be kept at school for your child to wear when they need them. This may be for visiting the woodlands, or for playing outside when the weather turns, including for jumping in puddles!

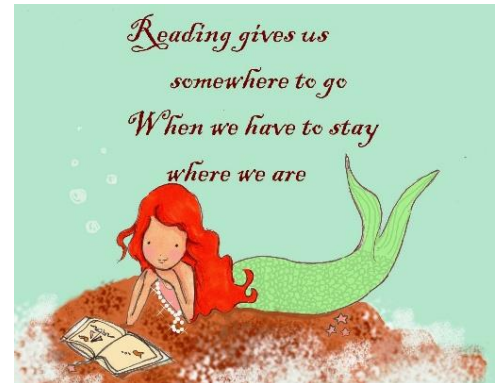
Please also think about what you would like your child to wear to the woodlands over their clothes. In past years muddy puddle suits have been ideal at keeping children dry, warm and they're washable! Alternatively, waterproof trousers and a waterproof coat also do the same job. These can stay at school and will be sent home for washing periodically.

## Reading

We are very proud of our new phonics focused reading scheme which includes lots of decodable books that your child will be able to read themselves as they progress through the phonics scheme.

Your child will soon be receiving a reading wallet with resources to support reading at home. In the zip wallet will be:

- **A decodable phonics book** – This book is part of a progressive phonics-based reading scheme that covers all phonemes (sounds) from Phase 2 – Phase 5. Your child will receive a decodable book that matches their current phonics knowledge and therefore they should be able to read this book with minimal support from parents, in particular when their knowledge of sounds grows. Please encourage your child to sound out the words on the page and blend the sounds together to create the final word. Ask your child questions about what is happening, look at the pictures and really immerse yourselves in quality reading time.



- **An Oxford Reading Tree book** - This book is to be read with adult support at home. There will be sounds in these books that your child may not have learnt yet and therefore more support will be needed. Oxford Reading Tree books follow the characters of Biff, Chip and Kipper and some of their family and friends.

The Oxford Reading Tree scheme starts with picture books. Each picture book will come home with an extended story booklet which has the story written in it for the adult to read. It also gives the adult lots of questions to ask your child for each page. Please encourage your child to talk around the pictures and follow the story as you read. You could also get your child to use their imagination and create their own story based around the pictures in the book.

The Oxford Reading Tree scheme then progresses to books that include words for your child to read. These stages will still come with extended story booklets for the adults to read the additional story and to ask the related questions.

Please take the time to sit with your child and listen to them read. Please do not feel that your child has to read a whole book in one sitting; a few pages each night is sufficient. Once you have completed the book, read it again, multiple times. Re-reading a book helps children to build confidence and fluency. They will begin to 'look and know' / recognise familiar words by sight, supporting their ability to read quickly, which supports their comprehension.

Please also read as many other books as you can. It is equally important for your child to be read to too!

**Library books** - Reception will visit the school library every Monday afternoon where they will get to choose a book to bring home for the week. Please ensure these library books are returned the following Monday to enable your child to visit again and choose a new one.

Reading books will be changed weekly. You will find your child's change over day written on their folder. Please ensure that your child's reading book folder is in their book bag daily as we will read with your child across the week.



Alongside reading books, your child will also receive a set of word cards. These cards provide you with the key words that children will come across in each of the phonics phases. Your child will receive new word cards as they progress through our phonics scheme. Key words are either words that show up frequently in the books your child is reading (in the first set these are pink cards), or are words that are tricky to apply their phonics knowledge too and therefore need extra practice (in the first set these are green cards).

Your child's word cards will come home in a wallet with 9 sections. New words will be placed in the first section in the top left corner (please only have a few in here at a time so not to overwhelm your child). As your child practises reading these words, they can move them through the numbered sections 1-7 if they have read the card correctly on that occasion. The aim is that by the time the word card reaches the last section, your child can recognise the word by sight and therefore does not have to sound it out to read it.

Please use the word cards in other ways too - you can play games with them, hide them around your house for your child to find, write them out and put them on the wall .... the list is endless!

More information about our reading books and word cards will be explained during the Meet the Teacher event on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Home Learning**

This half term I would like you and your child to focus on getting into a good school routine and ensure that their transition from Nursery is as smooth as it can be. I would also like you to focus on getting into a good reading routine with your child, ideally reading every day. Additional home learning ideas will be shared on Class Dojo at the start of new topics (details about Class Dojo to follow shortly).

### **Class mascot**

Koda, our new class mascot, loves travelling outside of the classroom and is very excited to start spending the weekends with the children! Each weekend Koda will be sent home with one child who has shown a particular strength that week. This may be because they have demonstrated one of our learning behaviours, shown good manners or perhaps they have persevered with something they were finding tricky. There is no pressure at all! Having breakfast together and playing in the garden is the perfect weekend for Koda. Please stick some photos into the book of what you have been up to so that we can share the book together as a class. Please ensure that Koda is returned to school with your child on Monday morning.



## Topics

We have started this term off with a pirate theme which we will continue to engage in for the next few weeks. If your child has anything pirate themed that they would like to share with the class, they may bring it into class with them on any morning. Any books are greatly encouraged.

We are also focusing on learning about each other. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for assisting your child with making a treasure box over the summer holidays. It is not only lovely to watch your child share their box so enthusiastically with the rest of the class, but it is also a great way to learn so much about your child.

Below is a weekly timetable to help you and your child prepare for school each day:

Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Koda due back in school</li><li>• Library day – Library books returned to school</li></ul>
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PE – PE Kit to be worn to school</li></ul>
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PE – PE Kit to be worn to school</li><li>• Woodlands – PE kit to be worn to school</li></ul>
Thursday	
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Koda sent home with one child</li></ul>

I hope that this has provided you with some extra information, please do not hesitate to contact the office if you have any further questions.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our Meet the Teacher event on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

Kind regards

Mrs Wingrove