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St. Nicolas C.E. Primary School
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September 2022

Dear Parents

A warm welcome to 'Reception'. At St Nicolas school, every year group send a planning letter to update you on the routines and themes for the terms ahead (3 times a year).

Firstly, thank you for allowing us into your home on the recent Home Visits. We really value each and every visit and opportunity to make those key attachment with your child. Starting a child's school journey is such a milestone, and we appreciate how difficult it can be to say a quick goodbye. However, the children have been incredible at getting on with the transition and they settle so quickly into their play when they arrive in the classrooms. To reiterate, if there is anything you'd like to chat to the team about, no matter how small, do make a point of catching us, a note on tapestry or a phone call to the office. If you require a longer chat or prefer privacy, do just ask us and we can arrange something at a convenient time.

Morning Routines

We encourage your child to do these morning tasks before they start a play activity.

- Put their coat on their main (coloured) pegs. Hang up their book bag on the wall pegs.
- Wash their hands.
- We are currently re-filling their water bottles daily with fresh water and will support them in becoming independent in doing this over the year.

Topic

Our topics for term 1 & 2 will be based on the children's interests, seasonal changes and on significant events e.g. bonfire night/Diwali, themes around key texts with repeated phrases and also moving onto Christmas. Please let us know if there are any particular interests your child expresses at home or share them on Tapestry to celebrate with the class. We will also be enjoying nursery rhymes and listening games and we encourage you to practice these at home too as they play an important part in developing communication skills and early reading. As the term progresses these

listening skills are crucial in learning letter sounds and early reading which will be developed through our Rocket Phonics reading programme.

Outdoor Clothing

Outside play is a very important part of our curriculum that the children experience in all weathers. Please ensure that your child has wellies and a coat in school every day for our mud kitchen too. Later on in the year, the children will also take part in weekly Forest School sessions, where waterproof trousers will most definitely be needed.

Reading

We will soon be introducing 'Books for Bedtime', which is a box of books your child can independently select with you at pick up every Friday. Each week they can swap it over for a new one. We invite you to a Rocket Phonics parent workshop to share details on how we teach phonics and reading at St Nicolas School. This will be on **Tuesday 27th September at 2.30pm.**

Snacks

We provide a snack of either fruit or vegetables and a carton of milk to have in class at snack time. Your child must also have a suitable drinks container for water which is clearly named. We will send these home every Friday for washing. We are currently refilling water bottles daily with fresh water.

In the case of school/ bubble closure

Your child's Tapestry account will be our way of delivering the curriculum should our bubble or school be closed due to COVID 19. If your child is sent home with COVID 19 symptoms and has to isolate, we will provide you with material via Tapestry, to allow you to continue to support their education at home.

Class contacts

We will notify you of your Class Contact once this information is available but we would recommend you sign up for [Classlist.com](https://www.classlist.com) for news directly from the SNSA.

We look forward to getting to know you and your children better. If you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to come and speak to us, or email us via the school office.

E-safety / internet

We would like to take the opportunity to remind parents that 'social networking sites' such as 'Facebook, are age restricted and should not be available to primary school aged children. The school policy regarding e-safety is regularly reviewed and we will carefully consider how we can monitor and report any inappropriate use of the internet outside school, including social networking sites and examples of cyber-bullying. We wish to work alongside parents, to ensure the children are safe and secure in their use of the internet. Can we encourage you to monitor your

child's activity and check that any games being played are not exposing the children to inappropriate material and are age appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Ruth Sweeney, Mrs Edwards & Mrs Jackman
Reception Team