



Building Each Other Up in Love and Learning

September 2023

Dear Families,

We very much enjoyed meeting you properly during the home visits. Thank you for welcoming us. This letter details all you need to get started including some important dates for your diaries.

Reception Curriculum Evening: Wednesday 20th at 6.00pm.

Please join us for the Reception Curriculum meeting on Wednesday 20th at 6.00pm. You should arrive at the Chertsey Road entrance. We will provide an explanation of how we teach our Early Years Curriculum which is rooted in the statutory Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. In Reception your child will cover the following areas of development:

- Personal Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

We will also support your child to develop independence using the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' which will prepare them for Key Stage 1.

Religious Education (RE) and Worship

We are proud of our strong connections with St Stephen's Church and have a clearly sequenced curriculum for RE. Our school vision and values are underpinned by Christian principles. Each year group is allocated one of our school spiritual values:

- Friendship
- Thankfulness
- Kindness
- Forgiveness
- Respect (for the environment)
- Service
- Peace

The Reception's spiritual value is **friendship**.



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Reading

It is impossible to over emphasise the positive impact that reading has on your child's education and development. This key life skill, when learned and enjoyed at an early age, will improve your children's independent writing, expand their vocabulary, broaden their viewpoint on life, improve their concentration and expand their imagination. Please **read to your child and talk to them about their book everyday**. To support this to happen, your child will have a new library book each week. This is for an adult to read aloud.

Little Wandle Phonics (Reading and Spelling)

We follow the [Little Wandle Phonics scheme](#). The children learn phonemes (sounds) and graphemes (corresponding letters) each week along with 'Tricky words.' Please support your child to practise the sounds each week - we will share the tools to do this with you. Once your child is ready they will take home a decodable reader to read to you at home.

More information about how we teach your child to read will be shared during the Phonics Parent Workshop online on 28th September at 5pm: meet.google.com/ryw-bkiz-vqc

Maths

We follow [NCETM's 'Mastering Number'](#) programme. Children will be working on recognising mathematical structures and patterns in number. They will be developing their problem solving skills and articulating their learning through talking in whole sentences. They will have many opportunities to practise their learning independently both at school and at home through their homework tasks.

More information about maths and the full Reception curriculum will be shared at the Parents Curriculum Meeting on Wednesday 20th September in person at 6pm.

Online tools

- Google classroom
- Tapestry
- Collins Big Cat E-books

Google Classroom

You will be sent a login for you and your child. Use google classroom to read the newsletter, watch any online meetings we have recorded and to access your parent's meeting. Please check-in weekly to ensure you utilise all of the resources there.

Tapestry

Tapestry is your child's online learning journal. It is our way of recording and sharing children's achievements, learning and interests in Reception. You can share what your child is learning and doing at home by uploading photos, videos and comments. This provides a full picture of your child. It is vital that you do this to help us to accurately assess your child. You can 'like' the observations we put up too and comment on them. When parents do this we develop a strong dialogue and partnership which further supports your child to flourish at school.

Homework



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Research shows that the home learning environment is the greatest factor in a child's development in the Early Years. We know that a strong partnership between home and school enables every child to flourish. Your child will receive the following home learning to complete with an adult:

- Daily practice of new sounds, recap of previous sounds and 'Tricky words'
- Daily reading of library book
- Daily reading of decodable reader (once we have taught the initial part of the phonics programme)
- Weekly maths challenge
- Weekly play activity (these interaction opportunities increase your child's vocabulary and their self regulation)
- Half termly topic booster (home learning activity for the holidays to prepare your child for the next half term)

Please document your child's home learning on Tapestry.

Trips and enhancements

To enhance your children's learning we have already organised the following curriculum linked trips:

Autumn walk on Friday 13th October 2023
Brooklands museum on Thursday 25th January 2024
'Tidy' at the Polka Theatre on 6th March 2024
Fairy Tale day at school on Tuesday 16th April 2024

Please add these dates to your diaries. Further details including the cost of trips and a request for parent volunteers will be sent shortly.

Equipment

Children need **book bags only, carrying their water bottle separately.** Please do not put water bottles inside as this leads to damage to the school reading books. We also kindly ask that only **one keyring is attached to book bags** if your child needs one to identify it quickly and easily. Please do not bring toys to school. **Please add a spare pair of pants and socks in a zip lock bag inside your child's book bag. Please clearly label all items of clothing.**

Timetable

You will have access to your child's weekly timetable for the Autumn Term on Google Classroom.

PE and Games

Our PE lessons are led by the PE coach Mr Cain and take place on **Thursdays.** detailed below:

Please can children wear their PE kit to school with their uniform in the PE bag. For the rest of term the PE kit will **stay in school.** All reception children will change for PE in their classroom as part of their learning for the Physical Development Area of Learning.

Please can you check that your child has the following:

- Shorts and a t-shirt for PE lessons (all clearly labelled)
- A spare change of clothes including socks in a plastic bag (this is kept inside the PE bag)

We will let you know later in the year when they need trainers for PE outdoors.





French

Our French lessons are led by specialist teacher Madame G.

Staff team

Your children's teachers are as follows:

Anning Class – Ms Dale (Tuesday-Friday), Mrs Austin (Monday-Friday)

King Class – Mrs Flower and Miss Khaleel (Miss K)

Support Staff Team - Mrs Austin, Miss Khaleel and Miss Rosa

Birthdays

As a Healthy School, if you wish to share something with the class to celebrate your child's birthday, please can we ask that instead of a sweet treat, a book could be donated to the class library.

Additional Dates

22/9/23 - FOSS Second Hand Uniform Sale

Wkc 25/9/23 - FOSS Book fair

28/9/23 - Phonics and home reading workshop online at 5pm: meet.google.com/ryw-bkiz-vqc

4/10/23, 7:30pm - St Stephen's Vision Night hosted by SLT and the Governing body in the school hall

10/10/23 - Harvest Festival

Wkc 16/10/23 - Anti-prejudice week

17/10/23 & 18/10/23 - Individual school photos

17/10/23 & 18/10/23 - Parent consultations online

20/10/23 - FOSS Favourite top day and end of term at 3:20pm!

Keep in touch

As always, if you have any concerns, worries or just want a quick informal chat, please do not hesitate to get in touch via the reception@st-stephens.richmond.sch.uk

We very much look forward to the academic year ahead.

Best wishes,

The Reception Team

reception@st-stephens.richmond.sch.uk



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