

General Information

Welcome back to school Nightingales! I hope you have all had a fantastic fun filled summer holidays and are feeling excited about the new school year. I am really looking forward to working with you all and helping your children learn through creative and practical experiences.

Your support with your child's learning journey is invaluable and I would like to thank you in advance for this. As a partnership we will be able to help your child reach their full potential and to support them to love learning and to become lifelong learners. Your children's learning and emotional wellbeing is of upmost importance to us. We care about helping them flourish as individuals, as a team as well as their academic progress.

Key Information

Nightingales Projects:

We have some great enquiry projects this year in Nightingales. We are going to begin with an 'All About Me' enquiry and then move onto leaning about the countries in the United Kingdom.

We will be beginning our writing unit by looking at 'labels, lists and captions' linking to our enquiry projects. We will then be exploring fairytales through story making.

In maths, we begin the term by developing and building upon our place value skills. This includes sorting objects and representing numbers within ten. This will be taught practically using resources before moving onto pictorial representation.



Phonics:

At St Aldhelms we use the Unlocking Letters and Sounds phonic scheme. Please see our class page for slides for how you can support your child at school.

Uniform

Please ensure that your child is wearing the appropriate clothing and footwear. It is also important that children have wellies and coats in school every day so that they can use all areas of the school, including the Forest School area.

For those children who have their ears pierced, it should be plain studs, which will need to be removed or covered with tape during PE. Other than a watch or medic alert bracelet, there should be no other jewellery / bands / accessories. Any child with longer hair needs to have their hair tied back. In addition to our standard school uniform, you may wish to provide your child with an oversized shirt to use as an Art apron. Please see the school website for a reminder on our uniform.

PE

For Autumn term, our PE sessions will take place on a Monday and Friday. Please ensure your child has their PE kit in school on these days.



Meetings

I believe that it is important that there are strong communication links between us. Class Dojo messages, emails and messages through the School Office have been brilliant in helping us maintain those links. Although we will be able to see each other on the playground at the end of the school day, the use of Class Dojo messages and emails will continue to be our main forms of communication. This ensures that I can focus on making sure that children are released safely at the end of the day, as well as supporting children with this transition period. If you need to discuss any issues, concerns or general queries further, then I will be happy to arrange a phone call or meeting. If you are sharing information about attendance or something for that same day, please contact the School Office. This is because I may not always get the chance to check emails/messages before the end of the school day. Thank you for your understanding and I look forward to working with you throughout the year.

Behaviour

Behaviour expectations: Already this term, we have worked on remembering and re-establishing our school rules (Ready, Respectful and Safe) and learning behaviours (Accuracy, Resilience, Collaboration, Independence, and Reflection). Children will continue to earn Class Dojo points when they are seen to be going above and beyond the standard expectations. This may be in pieces of work they produce; answers they give and how they conduct themselves around the school. Please do interact using Class Dojo, I know the children in previous years have enjoyed this function and have used it respectfully.

Home Learning:

It is important that children's learning habits get off to a good start. In school, we will establish and maintain a routine to meet all children's needs and promote curiosity, engagement and success. Key Stage 1 is an important stage in your child's primary journey and it is essential that children complete the home learning set. We understand that children have other commitments as well as a need to have time to switch off, which is why we continually review our home learning systems. It is important that children maintain regular practise of certain skills to help further develop their learning. Below is an overview of the expectations.

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| Read and Respond (weekly) | Children should read their reading book to an adult at least four times per week. A record of this should be kept in their reading records. We then suggest children discuss what they have read and what has been read to them to give them the opportunity to respond to different texts. In addition, 'sharing' books will be sent home that can provide families with books for bedtime stories etc. |
| Spelling (weekly) | Spelling lists will be sent home each week. Spellings will match the graphemes and phonemes (letters and sounds) we have learnt in class. Children are expected to practise their spellings and letter formation. |
| Times Tables (weekly) | Children will be expected to complete 15 minutes on Numbots a week. This is set so that you can see how many minutes out of the 15 have been completed. Children can go over the 15 if they wish. |