

Dear Parents,

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you as a parent of a child in FS2. I really hope that the children have an engaging and productive year as a member of our FS2 class and look forward to the partnership that we will share as educators of your lovely children. As the first educators of your child you are a huge part of their potential success and many of you probably did a bit more educating than expected with the unexpected shortening of your child's time in Nursery. I would like to take this opportunity to say that you have clearly all done a brilliant job and the children have returned to school well prepared to begin expected learning in FS2 and are full of enthusiasm. Both myself and Mrs Brown are really looking forward to sharing lots of exciting learning opportunities with the children this year.

We have one or two challenges with extra cleaning and attempting to make efforts to socially distance the children where possible but we have tried to keep the opportunities and possibilities to learn in engaging and exciting ways, as similar as possible to how we would normally run FS2.

We have a wonderful outdoor learning space at Saint Paulinus and intend to use this as much as possible this year so I would like to ask you to ensure that you always send your child with shoes and clothing that are suitable for the weather. It would be great if every child could have a pair of wellies and I will put out any wellies from FS1 on the amphitheatre this week so that you can decide if they still fit. We will be going out come rain and shine and so can I ask that they have a coat that is suitable for this. They can also be out for extended periods and will feel more comfortable if they are warm. This might mean hat and gloves and always a waterproof coat with a hood on a wet day. If you have any waterproof over trousers or an all in one waterproof suit that could be left in school this would also be most useful. Can I also request that for the safety of both your child and the staff you don't send your child in lace up shoes as it is unlikely they could tie them themselves and it is more of a challenge to keep tying a child's shoes at the moment.

On Fridays we will be doing yoga bugs and PE so can I ask that everyone sends their child to school in Velcro trainers on that day which can then be kept on all day as these will be needed for the PE lesson.

If your child requires medication or has any special dietary requirements can you please make sure you inform the office staff.

When you drop your child off in the morning can I also ask that you leave them at the entrance to our under covered area where staff will assist the child with the hand sanitiser if required and then follow our one way system leaving at the gate on Staindale. If someone other than yourself is collecting your child it would also be useful to know that in order for us to be certain that they are always handed over to the correct person and to ensure that we keep our socially distanced plans, can you inform anyone who might drop off or pick up your child of the routines. Can I also remind you that it is just one parent or carer allowed on the school site at dropping off and picking up times and no dogs are allowed on site or to be tied up at the gate. We are also having to wash equipment with more frequency and some of it might be out drying when you arrive or leave so can I also ask you to make sure that no one touches any outdoor equipment.

Apologies for all this added information but it is all meant to help us adhere to the government guidelines and to ultimately keep both the children and staff safe.

The children have all now received a school bag. This is useful to hold any pictures that they do and ultimately their reading book. Can I ask that this is the only bag they bring to school as we have

limited storage now but please make sure this bag comes to school every day. We now have a box to store them outside the front door.

Each week we have a number and letter of the week which I will try to keep you informed in order to support this at home. This week, our number is 2 and our letter is Tt. We will also begin to have a word of the week and this week it is 'it'. The children will shortly be bringing home a set of key words to begin their reading journey. These will be written on a rocket and I would ask you to read them daily with your child. As they become confident with these words we will give your child a new rocket but I would ask you to keep each rocket and keep reinforcing the words as they can be easily forgotten. We spend the next few weeks learning letters and simple words before having a reading book and so I will share more information about reading nearer the time. If any of you still have a book borrowed from your child's time in FS1 can you also return that to school.

We do have topics which we link to learning in FS2 and this term we are linking our learning to stories. Our first story has been 'The tiger who came to tea' and next week we will be reading 'The three little pigs'

We are also learning about minibeasts and this week is our spider week if anyone has a giant spider at home that you would like to send in that would be exciting.

We are also learning about our families and ourselves and if any of you have a picture of your family, which your child could bring in and put up on our display board that would be great.

Lunches are mostly going very well although some children are less confident with a knife and fork. They have spoons but these are just for their desert. If you could encourage your child to eat with a knife and fork at home and begin to practise cutting up food this would really help them at lunchtimes. Part of our teaching in FS2 is to encourage the children to become as independent as possible and this includes putting on and fastening their own coat.

Please ensure that your child has a water bottle with them each day. We are trying to promote teeth hygiene so can you ensure this is only filled with water. Can you also ensure that it is not a free flow bottle as sometimes they get knocked over and we have had the occasional flood.

If you have any concerns about your child which you would like to discuss you are welcome to make a telephone appointment.

We are also in the process of trying to attract fairies to our environment and intend to build an exciting new minibeast hotel and area so if any of you have any small plants or interesting stones, shells, feathers or wind chimes which we could use to enhance these areas it would be very gratefully received (Or anything else you think might enhance our outdoor learning space) it would be very much appreciated.

Thank you in anticipation of your support this year.

Kind regards

Mrs Turner and Mrs Brown