

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 home learning moments 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, Miss Murray and Mrs Brown are really looking forward to sharing lots of exciting learning opportunities with the children this year.

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 so if you haven't brought any in yet please send them in as soon as possible. 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. We now have the added addition of slippers which is something we haven't tried before but the children appear to be managing this really well so far. We already have some unclaimed jumpers so can I please request that you make sure that your child's name is in every cardigan jumper and coat as it is impossible to return them otherwise as they all look so similar. If your child accidentally brings home the jumper of another child can I ask you to return it the following day.

On Fridays we will be doing yoga bugs and on Thursday 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.

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. Can I also request that the water bottle is not put in this bag at any time as we had several of our new reading books ruined last year when bottles leaked on them.

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. It is really important that your child can write their name independently at this stage so if this is something which you feel your child is not confident in then it would be brilliant if they could practise this at home. We are certainly doing lots of practise at school!!

We do have topics which we link to learning in FS2 and this term our topic is 'What makes me special'. We also link a lot of 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. Could you also put your child's name on their bottle as this helps them identify it if someone in the class has a similar bottle.

If you have any concerns about your child which you would like to discuss you are welcome to make a telephone appointment or catch me or another member of the class after school.

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. If anyone has any spare plants, bulbs, seeds or has contact with anyone who might be able to provide us with some plants to enhance our outdoor space that would be fantastic as we are really hoping to develop our garden this year. Our staff had a ground force evening last night after school where Mrs Ellis was able to demonstrate our topiary skills but the area is large and tricky to maintain so if you or a family member, possibly a grandparent enjoys gardening and has some time to spare some help with this would be much appreciated. If anyone has any expertise sorting out ponds that would also be appreciated.

We are also looking for some loose parts to develop our outdoor areas. Cable drums of all sizes, plastic tubing nuts, bolts small pieces of wood or slices of tree trunk would all be useful.

Lastly we have started a weekly pound fund and the pot will be outside on the table each morning. This small contribution will allow us to provide really exciting additional resources to support the children. For example we would like to be able to provide regular seasonal produce for the children to experience, flowers for the mud kitchen, plants for the garden. We intend to share with you the ways in which we use this money throughout the year for the benefit of your children.

Thank you in anticipation of your support this year.

Kind regards

Mrs Turner and Mrs Brown