



# St John's C of E Primary School

## Together we grow stronger

Headteacher Mr B Basinger-Adams    Chair of Governors Mr J Alpin



Date: 14/12/18

Dear Parents and Carers of children in Reception,

As the Autumn terms come to an end, we do hope that your child has settled in well, and that you as parents have settled in to our routines.

Through great experience, we know that different children take different lengths of time to settle in to Reception and to the higher expectations of school life compared to nursery. Some children will struggle more so than others with having boundaries set on their behaviours, others will struggle with social relationships, others will find the academic side very challenging. We guarantee you, at various stages your child will struggle with one or all of these throughout their school life.

Rest assured we are here to help parents to manage the challenges. Our Top Tips issued at the start of the year (and copied again at the end of this letter) really do help, and our information for Reception parents (issued at the two after school meetings in Term 1) is invaluable.

This year we have adapted our parent consultation form following on from 10% of parents suggestions that they wanted more pastoral information on their child. These match with our rules / principles / behaviours and expectations in our school - called our WAYS. Much of this also matches very well with the Early Years curriculum. This is the system we use in our school – we are sure you will get used to it over time and use it as an invaluable tool to help your child to succeed.

However, we are aware that there may very well be an alternative set of 'key information' you may have wanted just for the very first autumn term of your child at school. We are also considering an online tool to allow parents access to regular assessments / pastoral feedback / behaviour incident reports / rewards – it would be nice to have your views on this. With this in mind we will be holding a brief 'meet-the-headteacher-session' for parents of early year pupils to learn from your experience, and listen to your suggestions. This meeting will be held at 3.15pm on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January. We look forward to seeing you.

The Spring term format will remain the same as you received in the Autumn term but we will be adding some key assessment data about attainment and progress. The Summer term format will be different in that you will receive a very comprehensive and detailed full report and summary of your child's attainment for this year.

Of course, you can always find out more about your child through:

- a brief chat at the start / end of day
- booking a meeting with the class teacher
- attending celebration of learning evenings
- attending other events such as church services

In the mean-time, we do hope to see you at one of the Nativity productions. We are sure you will be amazed and proud of your child! We also hope to see you at the Christmas Carol service on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2.30pm in the Church.

Yours sincerely

Berkeley Basinger-Adams

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- Limit your child's time on digital technology and social media.
- Do not let your child use digital technology / social media 1hr before bed – give their brains time to 'relax' from the over-stimulation and 'blue-light'.
- Ensure your child has 30mins of physical activity (not including school) – walking the dog, playing in the garden, a bike ride, going to a club, etc. Physical activity has been linked to wellbeing, brain development, long term health.
- Ensure you child has 10hrs sleep a night, at least.
- Ensure your child has healthy food and drink at home and at school – 5-a-day fruit and veg, a healthy lunchbox or hot school meal, and a drinks bottle at school.
- Send your child to school in a happy frame of mind, having had a good breakfast, with their equipment for learning with them.
- Celebrate all your child's learning with positivity.
- Support the school with behaviour management and any issues that may arise. Share your concerns and work together with the school for the solutions.
- Support your child with their emotions – your child will, at times, struggle with some friendships or social situations. This is natural, and it is part of growing-up to learn to be empathetic, negotiate, collaborate, co-operate. Avoid 'inflaming' these emotions with your own reactions.
- At the end of the school day / tea-time ask your child "what did you learn today?" rather than "what did you do today?"
- Read at home for 5-10minutes with your child for a minimum of 3x per week, aiming for 5+. Record this in the Reading Record so as to gain points for the Reading Olympiad.
- Find 5 minutes every day to practice your child's mental maths (times tables, number bonds, etc) and 5 minutes every day to practice your child's spellings. Little and often work better than cramming the night before as the aim is to embed the learning rather than pass a test.
- Support your child with their homework each week – you are allowed to help, indeed it sends a very positive message to your child if you do help.
- Remember that you are the greatest influence on your child.....they will copy your behaviours, attitudes, language, food choices and life-style choices.
- HABITS are hard to break – create good habits (respect / behaviour / positivity about learning / relationships with others) to help your child succeed!

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