



Dear Parents and Children,

Welcome to the Autumn Term of our new school year, I hope that you all enjoyed a wonderful summer break. My name is Hazel Redman and I am the Early Years Leader at St. David's School, overseeing provision for FS1, FS2 and KS1. I am the lead teacher in the Foundation class and will be joined by our keyworkers, Mrs Bennett and Mrs Noble.

This year classes are named after artists and so FS will be Goldsworthy class after Andy Goldsworthy whose sculpture and transient artworks within nature link so well to ideas that we explore in Foundation Stage. We have some wonderful experiences planned and very much look forward to seeing you all again and meeting new friends who are joining us.

Starting School

Starting school or returning after a long break can bring out a range of emotions in young children. You know your child best and hopefully the following information will help you to prepare them, should they need some reassurance. It might benefit your child to know that you can come into class with them on the first few days or that they will be coming home for lunch. It might also be helpful to start talking about their teachers by name or some of the other children they will see.

If your child becomes upset when entering school, please reassure them then signal a member of staff who will take care of them after you say goodbye. You may have to steal yourself to walk away but please know that it is better for your child if you say goodbye and leave rather than linger. In my experience, tears do not often last long. If your child has had a tearful goodbye, once they are settled, we will message you to let you know how they are getting on. If you feel that you would rather telephone and speak to one of us please do.

Our School Day

In order to allow children to settle in, I would like to invite parents to accompany children into class for the first week of term. This will give you the opportunity to support your child in finding their peg and settling before saying goodbye. If your FS2 child is happy to come in alone, you may leave them on the playground at 8.35 with the staff on duty. If your FS2 child would like you to come in, please wait with them at the gate. Please can all FS1 parents wait at the gate with their children until 8.45am when I will meet you and show you in.

In FS1 we finish at 11.45am when children may be collected from the playground gate.

In FS2 we operate a staggered start to the term. Weeks 1 & 2 will end at 12pm. Weeks 3 & 4 will incorporate lunch and a play and children will go home at 1pm. From week 5 (w/c 30th Sept) onwards FS2 children will attend a full day ending at 3pm. Children may be collected from the playground gate.

If your child is to be collected by someone other than yourself (this might be friends, family, childminders or other parents) please inform the school office prior to pick up.

If you find yourself delayed on your way to pick up your child please telephone our school office on: 06371 42717 so that we can reassure your child and arrange supervision.

Uniform

Please ensure that your child is appropriately dressed for the weather. If it is particularly warm still, I would ask you to apply sun cream before school as we will be spending a lot of time outdoors. Equally, as the

weather turns throughout the term, please ensure that your child has warm clothing that will allow them to continue to play outside. Please help us to help your child by naming all items of clothing, particularly jumpers and shoes. Whilst we follow the St.David's uniform policy, may I recommend that you dress your child in comfortable, practical clothing that they can manage themselves and move freely and safely in. You may wish to consider elasticated waists, shorts, leggings or jogging bottoms. Please provide spare clothing in a named bag that can stay in school throughout the term-children will get wet and messy. I recommend plenty of extra underwear and socks.

Physical Development

On **Wednesdays** we will have a dedicated time in the hall and all children will be encouraged to take part in activities that will promote the development of physical co-ordination and balance. This will be part of our child-initiated learning time; therefore, children will not be expected to change their clothes. I would ask that on these days, all children come dressed in bottoms that will allow them to move and climb freely. We will remove jumpers, socks and shoes during this time.

Snack

Each day we will provide a healthy snack. In FS our snack is 'self-service' whereby children will be encouraged to come to the snack area when they feel hungry and to organise themselves, eat sensibly and clear away. Key areas of independence, communication, confidence and physical development will be promoted during this time. Our snack menu will be published on our class page of the school website. Drinking water will also be available throughout the day.

Library

From week 2, we will visit our library on a **Tuesday morning**. Children will have an opportunity to look at books, listen to stories and choose a new library book to bring home to share with you. Please ensure that library books are in school each Tuesday. School book bags may be purchased at the office.

Supporting at home

I strongly encourage all parents to read daily to their children. This is a most powerful step towards supporting early language development, reading and writing. Equally I would encourage you to talk with your children about their day, play together and sing lots of songs and nursery rhymes.

FS2

Please ensure that FS2 children have their book bag in school everyday. As the term progresses, this will contain their reading record home/school book, a reading book chosen by them that can be changed daily, a guided reading book that will be changed weekly and letter /sound cards.

Marvellous Me!

To support our theme for this term (please see attached curriculum map for details) please could you provide a picture of your child with their family and as a baby. These will be shared and discussed with the children and displayed on their individual windows. We will take good care of photographs. Should you wish to email us please send to st.davids.school@modschools.org.

Allergies/Medical Issues

Please ensure that we have up to date information regarding any food allergies or medical conditions concerning your child. If your child has a medical condition requiring medicine to be kept in school (e.g epi pens, inhalers, eczema treatments), please contact me or the office on Tuesday 3rd September to ensure that we have named, up to date resources.

If you have changed any of your contact details over the summer please inform the school office ASAP so that we might update our records.

Forest School

We will begin our Forest School sessions later in the term and these will take place on a Friday morning – dates to follow. Children will require boots, long sleeved tops and trousers, waterproof coats and trousers and a hat. Please ensure that all clothing is named.

Stay and Play

Our first Stay and Play will take place on Friday 27th September 0845-0945. This is an informal chance for you to join your child in school for the first hour of the morning. Please meet at the back gate where we will sign you in. Younger siblings are most welcome however; I would ask that you be responsible for them during your visit. We look forward to seeing you.

Individual Parent /Teacher meetings will take place later in the term, however, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time should you need to. You can speak to me or one of our staff at the gate or you can make an appointment at the office.

Kind regards,

Hazel Redman