



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 this year will be joined by our keyworkers, Mrs Bennett and Mrs Kerr.

This year our classes are named after naturally occurring phenomenon and so FS will be Moeraki class, named after the Moeraki boulders found in New Zealand. We have some super experiences planned and very much look forward to seeing everyone again. This term we welcome Edward, Brianna and Fox and look forward to getting to know them as they begin their Learning Journey with us.

Starting School

Starting school or returning after a long break can bring out a range of emotions in young children. We had an unusual year last year and we continue to work with some of the changes that Covid has brought about. You know your child best and hopefully the following information will help you to help prepare them, should they need some reassurance. You may find it helpful to talk about school, new friends and teachers by name, as well as some of the toys and games we might have.

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

Please bring children to the gate at 0845 where they will be met by a member of staff. Children will be brought directly into school.

In FS1 we finish at 11.45am when children may be collected from the back gate.
From Thursday 2nd September children may access EDC until 1445.

In FS2 we will operate a staggered start to the term as follows:

Tuesday 31st August and Wednesday 1st September children will stay for lunch then go home at 1230.
From Thursday 2nd September children will attend a full day ending at 1455. Children may be collected from the back gate.

If your child is to be collected by someone other than yourself (this might be friends, family, child minders 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 support 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, therefore please include plenty of extra underwear and socks.

Physical Development

On **Wednesdays** children will be encouraged to take part in planned activities that will promote the development of physical strength, co-ordination and balance and give access to large and small apparatus that supports and develops throwing, kicking and catching skills, climbing, dancing and response to musical stimuli. 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 shorts, leggings or jogging bottoms that will allow them to move and climb freely. We will remove jumpers, socks and shoes during this time.

Snack

We are pleased to provide a healthy snack and ask that children bring a named bottle of water.

Library books

Children will have an opportunity to 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 every day. 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

Please see the attached curriculum map for details of our theme for this term. As part of our 'getting to know you' process, if your child is new to our school, please could you provide a picture of your child with their family and of them as a baby. These will be shared and discussed with the children and displayed on their individual windows. Please send pictures via email to stdavids.sas@modschoools.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 as soon as your child starts, to ensure that we have named, up to date resources and a medical plan in place.

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

Once we have established expectations for behaviour and children are settled into their new routine, we will begin our Forest School program. If you wish to support this at home, please do talk with your child about road safety. Dates will come home nearer the time.

Children will require strong boots, long sleeved tops and trousers, waterproof coats and trousers and a hat. Please ensure that all clothing is named. Wellies and waterproofs should be kept in school for daily use.

Dates for your diary.

Parent Teacher meetings-w/c 20th September, information will come home nearer the time.

FS2 & KS1 Parent Reading Workshop- date TBC

Stay and Play- Friday 17th September 0845-0945

We very much hope to be able to offer these two events later in the term, please bear with us as we work with Covid guidelines.

Reception Baseline Assessment

This is a new government initiative aimed at assessing early Maths and English skills on entry to FS2, which will take place in the first few weeks of this term, consisting of a few practical activities which children do individually with their class teacher.

Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to speak to me or one of our staff at the gate or you can make an appointment at the office.

I look forward to meeting everyone and to a fun filled new term.

Kind regards,

Hazel Redman