



HOLLY CLASS



Dear Parents and Carers

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to the beginning of another year at St John the Baptist and Holly Class. I hope you have all had a lovely summer break. The children have a fun-packed term ahead including a Geography trip and Harvest Festival. I have put together a curriculum overview which will guide you through the key activities and learning the children will be covering. It was lovely to work with your children during the transition morning in July, and I look forward to watching them blossom throughout the year. If you have any worries or concerns that you would like to discuss with me about your child's learning or progress at any point in the coming year, please contact the office.

START OF THE DAY

The gates open at 8:40am with registration at 8:50am. Your child will have the opportunity to do some spelling activities / quiet reading during this time and they will also be able to access Accelerated Reader quizzes. Arriving on time is a great start to the day, putting your child in the right frame of mind to make the most of the day's learning. Good punctuality is linked to good attendance which leads to better outcomes for children.



P.E. AND GAMES

It is very important that the children have their PE kit in school throughout the week so that they can fully participate in these lessons. Please make sure your child has suitable trainers for outside games. As we go into the Autumn term, children may wish to bring in tracksuit bottoms for warmth when outside. **Please ensure that all of your child's kit is named. Earrings should be removed for PE and Games, but if this is not possible, they should be covered with micro-pore tape provided by you.** Long hair MUST be tied back. Holly Class will have outside PE on Fridays and we will be inside on Mondays.



READING



It is important that children read every day. When reading with your child in the week, I would be grateful if you could add a comment into their reading comments books. Key questions to gauge your child's understanding include:

- 1) **During the book:** What has happened so far? What do you think will happen next? How would you feel if you were a character?
- 2) **After the book:** What was your favourite part? Why? Who was your favourite character? Why? What did you learn? Why do you think the author wrote it? Would you have changed the ending?
- 3) **About the story:** What kind of story is it? Where is it set? When is it set? What words describe it? How do you know?
- 4) **About characters:** What sort of character is [name]? Is he/she friendly, mean, or nice?
- 5) **About the author:** How does the author get us to feel scared or excited?
- 6) **About the text:** Which parts of the text would you change if you were editing it?

We will be circulating the Parent Reading Information booklets again, which provide further ideas for questions in order to test your child's understanding of what they are reading. Books will be handed in fortnightly on a Monday and returned on Tuesday. Children will be given opportunities to access the Accelerated Reader quiz linked to their completed book.

Our reading initiatives at St John the Baptist are:

- **Our Reading Awards** (book worms). This is a rolling process where a child's word count is constantly rolled over to the following year. This ensures that the child will progress through the award system and therefore promote, encourage and nurture their passion for reading.
- **Reading Leaves** (weekly) – these are given via the class teacher to celebrate an element of your child's reading. The intention is for every child to have received a leaf by the end of the term. Before we break up for Christmas, a winning ticket will be drawn from each box (EY/KS1, Y3&4, Y5&6). The prize is a trip to a nearby bookshop with Mrs Sharrock to choose a book.

HOMEWORK

As explained during the 'Meet the Teacher' presentation, children will produce work as laid out via their homework grid. There are a variety of activities to choose from and may be completed in any order. The hand in dates for all work is detailed on the grid which will be stuck into the front of their homework book. There will also be a copy available on the website. Children will receive a maximum of 6 weekly words that will be based on their spelling sessions. This is to help them learn the rule, which they will then apply to a range of words within a piece of fortnightly dictation. Children will be provided with some activities to help them practise. All children will have a weekly maths activity and Year 5 children will receive a weekly grammar sheet to complete. Please encourage your child to complete their activities but if you are finding this challenging, please let me know.



TIMES TABLES PRACTICE

As part of their homework, children are expected to practise their times tables on a regular basis. We would recommend TTRockStars (TTRS) and Hit the Button to support their tables' learning (there are links on the website). **It is important that Year 4 children should practise their times tables regularly as the Multiplication Check will take place in June.** The format is very similar to the 'Sound Check' feature in TTRS.




HEALTHY LUNCH BOXES

As part of our aim to provide our children with healthy lifestyles, we would like to remind you that your child should be provided with a healthy packed lunch. If your child would like a snack at break time, please can you ensure it is a piece of fruit or vegetables, such as carrot sticks. **Please do not send your child to school with nuts, peanut butter or products containing nuts** as we do have children in school who are severely allergic to such items.



WATER BOTTLES

 It is important that your child is kept hydrated throughout the day, so should have a named plastic bottle of drinking water to have in class; **these should NOT be used for squash or fruit juice please.**

SCHOOL CLUBS

We will be offering a range of clubs for the Autumn term. These will be detailed in the weekly newsletter.

AND FINALLY...

If there are any parents who would like to come to listen to some children read, please let the office know.

With kind regards,

Mrs C Wellby