



SIS NEWSLETTER

October 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

As October comes to an end, this means the end of a very long Term 1 too! It has been lovely getting to know our new Reception children and families – the children have settled well into school life and have been learning the rules and boundaries within our school setting, as well as building friendships and learning lots of new concepts.

All children and staff throughout the school have worked incredibly hard – we are all very lucky to have such a supportive and nurturing team around the children – I couldn't be prouder or ask for anything more – they always go above and beyond for all of the children.

We hope you all have a well-deserved, and much, needed October half term and look forward to seeing you all back on Tuesday 5th November.

Miss Bennett

INSET DAY

A reminder that Monday 4th November is a staff development day for the children.

WATER



Just an assurance that all children are asked to drink from their water bottles before and after break and lunch times, and are allowed to ask for a drink during the school day as long as it is not during the main teaching of a lesson.

We do not allow the water bottles to stay on the desks because there are always accidents where bottles are knocked over and spoil the children's work.

UNIFORM

Please can we remind you that all items of clothing and shoes should be clearly labelled with your child's name.

The school day very is busy so it's difficult trying to locate jumpers/ cardigans without names in them.

Any items that are not labelled go into lost property which you can find in the First Aid room.

READING RAFFLE

Miss Hancock has taken on the lead role of Reading and Phonics co-ordinator this year.

We have decided that a weekly reading raffle will replace the '100 reads'. Each time a child has read 10 times (of any book, school and/or personal), they will receive a raffle ticket to go into the weekly draw.

Each Friday, in celebration assembly, we will draw one name out and the winner will receive a book to keep. We will then empty the jar for new tickets the next week. Please ensure that you have noted in your child's contact book when they have read at home.



POLICIES

The following policies have been updated on our school website:

- Behaviour policy
- Anti-bullying
- First Aid

PARENT REPS

Our first parent rep meeting of the academic year will take place on Friday 8th November.

If you have any feedback for us then please contact one of the school reps to pass on your messages. Positives as well as negatives please 😊

Year 2 – Lucy Homerston (Madeleine's mum)
lucyhomerston@hotmail.co.uk

Year 1 – Clare Bridge (Charlotte and Isabella's mum)
clarejbridge@hotmail.com

Reception – Jessica O'Hanlon (Odin's mum)
jess.ohanlon@hotmail.com

CURRICULUM – PHONICS

Over the last two years, our staff have worked incredibly hard in their delivery of phonic lessons, but also with their keep up and catch up groups too. This takes a lot of time and preparation on top of the delivery time; however, it has proven to have significant benefits on the children's phonic ability. Last year 93.5% of our Year 1 children passed the phonic screening test.

In Reception:

This term, your child has been taught phonics for 10–15 minutes every day.

- They have learnt to say and read all the single letter sounds (for example, s and m) and some consonant digraphs. A digraph is where two letters make one sound (for example qu and sh).

- We have worked really hard to teach your child to blend sounds together to read words.

If your child has found any of this tricky and has any gaps in their learning, it would be really helpful to practice these with them at home too to ensure they don't fall behind.

In Year 1, children are taught a 30-minute phonics lesson every day. They will continue to read longer, more complex words, applying all sounds that they have been taught. Further information about their curriculum can be found on our school website.

ORACY

Last year we continued our journey to support language acquisition and confidence. We do this by speaking through the implementation of oracy assemblies every week. This has become a favourite part of the children's school day!

The children learn stories, poems and rhymes off by heart and are building confidence to recite them to larger audiences.

You can find little snippets of these sessions on Twitter.

NEW STARTERS 2025

Do you know of anyone that has a child due to start school in September 2025?

Next term we will continue our show rounds for prospective parents.

Please ask them to phone the school office to book in for a tour.

BOOK SHARE

Our next book share is on Monday 11th November at 2:55pm.

Please pop in to share a story with your child.

MAKATON

You will have noticed that we have been sending out notifications on MCAS, sharing our weekly Makaton sign with you.

Your children will be learning one sign a week to help them communicate with some of our children in school that use this as their primary means of communication.

READING PRACTICE

Our reading practice sessions support our phonic scheme and enable the children to practice and apply using the sounds they have been taught. It is important that the children are only accessing books with sounds that they have been exposed to ensure that they feel confident in their own reading successes.

Every day, all of our children participate in a reading practice group – there are three important elements to every week:

Decoding -----> Prosody -----> Comprehension

In Reception this term, children are:

- Starting to read wordless books and, when they can blend sounds into words, will be reading Phase 2 books.

We want children to be able to read fluently and not find reading a chore. Once they can read fluently, they can focus on adding expression when reading aloud and showing their understanding of the book.

Use the prompts on the back page of the books to check your child's understanding.

It is important that your child is not rushed through the scheme – repeated practice is essential.

Developing on the success in the implementation of phonics and reading practice, we have purchased new Little Wandle Fluency books for Year 2 children.

Little Wandle Fluency teaches all aspects of reading using vibrant, diverse and engaging chapter books created by contemporary authors and illustrators. Each book has been carefully devised to support children as they progress in reading fluency; making sure every child can become a confident, fluent and motivated reader.

Little Wandle Fluency is for children who have completed Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised) programme and are secure at reading the final level of books. It is not for children who still need phonics instruction.



What can I do to support my child at home?

- Ask them what sounds they have learned each day and point out objects in the environment or in books that start with that sound.
- Read to your child daily – choose books that you can enjoy together. The love of reading books we send home are a great place to start!
- Listen to them practise reading their phonics book to develop their fluency.
- Ask your child's teacher if you need extra help with supporting your child – that's what we're here for!

ATTENDANCE DURING TERM TIME

we have received a large number of holiday requests for leave during this term.

Reception: 4

Year 1: 4

Year 2: 6

Kent are clear on their expectations for children to attend school – this is a legal requirement.

The table below indicates what good attendance looks like and the impact upon a child's education

Attendance	Classified as...	Missed number of days	Missed number of lessons
100%	Excellent	0	0 lessons
99%	Very Good	2	10 lessons
97%	Good	1 week	25 lessons
95%	Beginning to make it hard to make progress	2 weeks	50 lessons
94%-91%	Cause for concern	11-17 days	85 lessons
90%	Persistently absent	4 weeks	100 lessons
80%		7.5 weeks	190 lessons
50%	Severely absent	19 weeks	485 lessons

Our school curriculum is planned in a progressive way, which means that where a child missed a lesson, this will need to be caught up at a different time to prevent gaps in learning. With such a busy school day, it is incredibly difficult to be able to teach a lesson again – where this happens, another child misses out on their catch up.

TERM 2 DIARY DATES

Monday 4th November	Inset day
Tuesday 5th November	Start of Term 2
Friday 8th November	Parent Rep Meeting
Monday 11th November (Remembrance Day)	Book Share at 2:55pm
Tuesday 12th November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Photographs • Parents evening 3:30 – 7:00pm
Thursday 14th November	Parents evening 3:30pm – 5:30pm
Monday 18th November	Road Safety Week
Thursday 21st November	Flu vaccinations
Tuesday 3rd December	Christmas Show (time TBC)
Friday 6th December	Year 2 Sing for Pfizer & Christmas lunch (children only)
Monday 18th December	Christmas jumpers & Christmas lunch
Friday 20th December	Class Christmas parties & Father Christmas

Please keep an eye out for updates, changes and reminders via MCAS and the school website.

