

DARLING CLASS NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you have all had a wonderful Summer. We are delighted to welcome both familiar faces and new ones and are very much looking forward to spending time with your lovely children, getting to them better and providing them with a very happy start to this academic year at Stanton.

Topics

As we welcome your child into Darling Class our priority is to help your child to settle quickly and happily, therefore, this first half term we have the topic 'Marvellous me and my family'. This topic will give us the opportunity to get to know more about your child and they will learn more about each other. As part of this we would like each child to bring in a photo of themselves as a baby and also a photo of their family. We will return these by half term and thank you in advance. Children will have the opportunity to visit St Giles Church in Stanton St Quintin as we learn more about how Christians view Creation. We will also be celebrating Harvest Festival in the church and hope that you will join us. After half term we will look at the changes that take place during Autumn and hope to visit Westonbirt Arboretum to see Autumn in all its glory. We will also ask children about different celebrations that they participate in during this time of year and share our experiences.

To find out more about what we will cover in the different curriculum areas, during the first half of the Autumn term, please see Darling Class Curriculum map. Please let us know if you have any ideas, resources or expertise in any of our topic areas- we would love to hear from you.

Woods Learning

We are very fortunate to have a fantastic woodland area on our school grounds and being able to explore the natural world, take risks and learn new skills is hugely beneficial for children's confidence and holistic development.

Nursery children: Woods learning will take place every Monday afternoon, beginning Monday 12th September.

Reception: Woods learning will take place every Monday and Wednesday afternoon, Monday 12th September and Wednesday 14th September.

Woods learning will take place whatever the weather, with the exception of high winds or thunderstorms.

On Woods days children should come dressed in layers of clothes suitable for being in the woods (clothes that you don't mind getting dirty) and appropriate for the weather. These must include long sleeves and trousers (no skirts or dresses). Extra socks, hat and gloves are recommended in cold weather. Children are asked to leave NAMED waterproof trousers and wellington boots in school.

We rely on parent helpers to make woods learning possible, without parent helpers woods learning cannot take place. So if you are able to volunteer (even if it is only once a term) please email darlingclass@stanton-st-quinton.wilts.sch.uk or speak to Mrs Breen.

Baseline Assessment

It is a statutory requirement that all Reception class children take the Reception Baseline Assessment within the first six weeks. This will consist of short practical task-based activities in maths and literacy and will help to track children's progress as they go through primary school. If you have any questions or concerns about this please do get in touch.

Nursery Key Person

This year all Nursery children will have a designated Teaching Assistant who will be their special person. Having a key person helps children to thrive as they are reassured by having someone that will meet their needs and support their personal, social and emotional development. Your child's Key person will be communicated to you privately.

PE

We will have PE every **Friday**. On this day we ask that all children come to school wearing PE clothing (joggers or shorts, school t-shirt) and footwear (trainers, no lace ups) for PE to ensure that they can fully take part.

Reading

All Nursery and Reception children are encouraged to enjoy books and develop a love of reading and stories. For this reason children can change their choice book any day they wish, when they arrive in school. It is hoped that you will enjoy these books with your child at home.

Reception: Your child will be taking home a letter sound keyring and high frequency word keyring. These will be updated each week when we have covered the new sounds and words in class. Please practise these daily, so that your child is able to keep up as we progress. Your child will also take home a reading book matched to our phonics scheme. Please try to read with your child at least 4-5 times each week and record this on your child's bookmark. More information about how you can support your child with reading in the Early Years can be found in the school's Reading Policy.

Items to bring to school

We are trying to minimise what children bring with them to school in order to reduce the amount on children's pegs, which prevents them accessing the items that they need.

Children ONLY need to bring in a named water bottle, named book bag, coat and waterproof trousers. If your child requires items for toileting, these can be brought in a bag and left on their peg.

A reminder of how you can support your child & contacting us:

Your child's education is a partnership and we look forward to developing a close relationship with you. We ask that you:

- Support your child in his/her learning through practice at home and promoting positive attitudes
- Encourage personal independence by making sure children have the correct equipment in school and can take off and put on their own socks, shoes, coats, hats and gloves
- Support the school's policies, including home learning
- Make sure your child is in school and on time
- Make sure that you have given us the updated permissions and contact information

The best way to contact us is to use the class email: darlingclass@stanton-st-quintin.wilts.sch.uk . For urgent messages please call the school office on 01666 837602

Please don't hesitate to get in contact if you have any questions or queries. The beginning of the day is a very busy time, so if you do have a longer message or enquiry, please do so at the end of the day or make an appointment.

We look forward to a very exciting term together and wish to thank you for your support.

Mrs Breen, Mrs Hunter, Mrs Major, Mrs Morely and Mrs Harwood