

Darling Class NEWSLETTER AUTUMN TERM 1 2023



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 know them better and providing them with a very happy start to this academic year at Stanton.

Topic – Inside Outside

As we welcome your child into Darling Class our priority is to help them to settle quickly and happily into Darling Class. We have chosen the topic Inside Outside as an opportunity to encourage the children to explore their new environment as well as the world outside. As part of this topic, we will be become storytellers as we join in with the retelling and acting of familiar stories; learn a traditional 'Call and Response' song from Ghana; recognise and extend patterns of shape and number; bake bear biscuits and spider bread rolls; explore colour mixing and weaving.

Some of the key texts we will be using this half term include:



We often have activities, such as cooking and specific crafts, which offer a wonderful opportunity for volunteers to come in to Darling Class to assist with. If you or another family member are interested in helping in this way, please speak to Mrs Breen or Mrs Hunter.

Forest School

Last academic year, we were very fortunate to have the help and support of parents and FOSS to extend our Forest School area on the school site. Children in Darling Class will take part in regular Forest School sessions throughout the year. 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: Forest School will take place every **Monday** afternoon, beginning Monday 11th September.

Reception: Forest School will take place every **Monday** and **Wednesday** afternoon, beginning Monday 11th September and Wednesday 13th September.

Forest School will take place whatever the weather, with the exception of high winds or thunderstorms. On Forest School days children should come dressed in layers of clothes suitable for being outdoors (clothes that you don't mind getting dirty) and appropriate for the weather. These must include long sleeves and trousers (no skirts, shorts or dresses), to protect from scratches and bites, including ticks. 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 Forest School possible, without parent helpers Forest School cannot take place. So if you are able to volunteer (even if it is only once a term) please email darlingclass@stanton-st-quintin.wilts.sch.uk or speak to Mrs Breen.

P.E

Nursery will have PE on **Tuesdays** and **Wednesdays**.

Reception will have PE on **Fridays**.

On PE days 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. Please help your child to practise taking off and putting on their socks and shoes independently.

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.

Reading

All Nursery and Reception children are encouraged to enjoy books and develop a love of reading and stories. We will visit our fantastic school library each week and children will be encouraged to choose a book to take home to share with you. Library books will be changed on a Tuesday or Thursday.

Reception: Your child will be taking home a letter sound 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 in your child's Reading Record Book. All Reception children will be read with once a week and all reading books will be changed on a Thursday. 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.

Show and Tell

Children often like to bring in items from home to show to the class, which is a fantastic opportunity to develop children's confidence speaking to the class and oracy skills. To ensure that this is fair and each child gets a turn, a 'Show and Tell' box will be sent home with one child each day, for them to put something into the box to show to the class the next day.

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 your child has the correct clothing, reading books and water bottles each day and practising taking 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 Morley and Mrs Harwood