



# Rowan Class



Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to another year at St. John the Baptist and Rowan Class. I hope that you have all had a lovely summer break. I cannot wait for the term ahead, learning about the Ancient Egyptians and visiting Brighton Museum. The curriculum overview will give you more detail about the learning that lays ahead this term. I am looking forward to the year ahead, getting to know the year 3 children and learning more about the year 4s. If you have any queries or concerns that you would like to discuss with me about your child's learning or progress at any point, please contact the office and we will arrange a time to speak to or meet with you.

## **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 and a jumper 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, please let me know - they will need to be covered with micro-pore tape provided by you.** Long hair **MUST** be tied back. Rowan Class will have outside PE on Thursdays with Premier Education and inside on Mondays. **Girls should ensure that they are wearing either netball skirts or shorts, not 'hot pants'.**

## **READING**



It is incredibly 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?

At St. John the Baptist, we are placing a strong emphasis on reading this academic year, as we have noticed that many children are not regularly reading with an adult at home. We know how important reading is for children's learning and development, and we are asking for your support in encouraging daily reading at home. In Years 3 & 4, the expectation is for children to read for at least 15 minutes a day. To support children with this activity, we have revised the homework load. We will also 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 morning and returned on Tuesday at the latest. Children will be given opportunities to access the Accelerated Reader quiz linked to their completed book at set times throughout the week.

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 have a weekly maths activity to complete in addition to their daily reading. Spelling and the fortnightly grid homework are now optional. We will be circulating a letter shortly, explaining the changes in more detail.

## **UNIFORM**

Uniform expectations can be found on our website (Parents – Uniform). When children are celebrating their birthday, clothing should be school appropriate; crop tops and short skirts are not appropriate attire for the school day. Hair should also be tied back.

## **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 WEBSITE**

We are very excited to announce that we have a new look to our website – please check out the new Rowan page. All communication will be posted in order to keep you up to date with future events and information about your child's learning. Please follow our Facebook page, as we regularly upload photographs of things going on in school.

## **SCHOOL CLUBS**

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

## **COMMUNICATION**

If you need to speak to me about your child at any point during the term, please contact the office or speak to me directly after school. At the start of each term, a curriculum overview is shared with all parents to keep you informed about your child's learning journey. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Kind Regards,

Mrs. Georgia Griffiths  
Class Teacher