



St. Lawrence Primary School

La Grande Route de St Laurent
St Lawrence
Jersey
JE3 1NG

Telephone: 01534 863172
Nursery: 01534 865524
Email: admin@stlawrence.sch.je

8th January 2024

Dear Parents,

We hope that your children have enjoyed their first week back after the Christmas Holidays. The children have settled back into the routines quickly and are enjoying being together again.

Morning Drop offs

This will continue as we started at the end of last term.

Children with an older sibling - Children that are entering with siblings between 8:30 – 8:40am need to come up through the school and your child's sibling will need to verbally inform Mrs Vautier or myself that your child has arrived. Please remind them about this.

Children without an older sibling - Just a reminder that children should be dropped off at the top of the steps (into the playground) from the Reception car park where I will meet them between 8:40 am and 8:50 am. The expectation is that parents say goodbye at the top of the steps, although we are aware there are times this will need to be flexible. The children will then walk along to the classroom and will be met by Mrs Vautier, they go in and unpack their bags independently, Mrs Vautier and I will guide and support them, where necessary. Then they can begin playing with some of the table top activities or read a book. Please remind your child if they have letters in their bag to give them to us, as we do not get the opportunity to check 28 bags each morning. If a sibling is bringing them to class, you could also ask them to prompt your child. If a letter is coming back each day or anything is urgent, then please drop the admin team an email and they will notify me.

I will be aiming to shut the gate just before 8:50am now, to allow me to get back into class and get the morning session started with the children.

If you walk from home or from the parish car park, or if you drop off older siblings first, then you can drop your child to me on the playground and then walk up to class. To do this please use the black gate (next to the eternal Hall doors). Ensuring it is closed behind you and we have seen your child arrive.

If your child comes into school upset or tearful, they are nearly always happy by the time we reach the classroom. Should your child not settle, please be assured that we will contact you.

If you arrive after 8:50am, please could you bring your child around to our main reception area where Mrs Sangster or Mrs Dean will sign them in and bring them along to class.

Lunchboxes –

Please read our lunchbox policy on the School website. Please remember **NO SEEDS OR NUTS** in snack or lunchboxes due to allergies within the class/school. (This includes hummus (sesame), peanut butter, Nutella/chocolate/nut spreads)

Spring Term

This term children will continue to work towards following the class and school rules. We have

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a visual flow chart in class with clear expectations. We will continue to promote independence, independently putting on coats and zipping or buttoning them up, any practise zipping up coats at home would be helpful.

As you may know, St Lawrence school values are Independence, Responsibility and Success. These too are reflected in our class rules, but we use a house point system to embed them further. Mrs Vautier and I frequently point out and celebrate examples of the school values that we see and award house points. The children are assigned to a 'House' and these are colour coded – Rocco (red), Seymour (blue), Kempt (green) and Lewis (purple). Children are encouraged to wear House Colours for various school events (such as Sports Day). If your child has an older sibling in school then your child will be in the same house as them.

Reading

www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TC8c2se0xs&t=247s

We have started RWI sessions again. The children have been assessed (or will be assessed if they were off at the end of term) and are taught in smaller ability groups. The children will be re-capping the sounds they have been previously taught, and some 'special friends' (more than one letter making a sound e.g. ch) We will continue to practise oral blending and some groups will begin to blend sounds together to read words.

At this stage we do not learn letter names. We focus on the 'pure sounds' (without the 'uh') – some children have returned from the holidays without 'pure sounds' this makes it harder for them to blend e.g. c-a-t is easier to hear than -cuh-ah-tuh (as they sometimes then add an 'u' when recording the words).

Watch the [Sound Pronunciation Guide video](#) to help you.

<https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/reading-owl/find-a-book/read-write-inc-phonics--1/phonics-pure-sounds-video>

Blending video - www.youtube.com/watch?v=dEzfpod5w_Q

Writing

Opportunities at home to develop gross motor and fine motor skills will all help towards writing skills. The handwriting policy is on the school website and models how to form each letter. It is important to use the rhymes to help the children correctly form the letters – if for example they start 'p' from the bottom practising drawing lines from top to bottom will help, if they incorrectly form 'a', practising drawing 'c' from top to bottom will support this. This could be writing in sand/mud, tracing on their back, air drawing.

Letter formation videos area available on this website – some of the speak a little quickly, so you may want to slow down the playback speed of your video.

Letter formation videos - www.youtube.com/channel/UCZhrFZlv6caOgIgfHW-Ug/videos

Library (Thursday)

Each Thursday, our Reception Children will visit the school library to choose a book to bring home and share with you. We are very fortunate in that we have a volunteer (Mrs Renault) in class on a Thursday which allows us to release an adult to take the children in small groups to choose their new library book and asks them questions about their old book. This is an invaluable opportunity to help develop speaking skills. Please could you ensure that your child has their book in their reading folders every Thursday

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so that they can benefit from these sessions – thank you. If due to staffing their book is not changed on a Thursday, we will keep them in the basket to change on a Friday.

Numeracy

We will be following the White Rose Maths scheme this year. We are starting the term by looking at shapes with 4 sides. You may be able to spot shapes in the environment. It is important to encourage the children to look at and identify shapes. They may also like to start counting the sides on a shape. We will continue to practise number formation and encourage subitizing numbers. Playing board games with a spotted dice is a great way to support this.

Independent Activities

We have a wide range of resources in the classroom that the children are free to access independently. There will also be a range of teacher-directed activities. The children will have access to the outdoor area and will wear their puddle suits and wellies on the wet days. They also wear them when accessing the mud kitchen. We observe the children in their play and look for ways we can add to it or enhance the way they are accessing resources to progress their learning.

Other activities (PE Monday and Friday)

We hope to get Forest School going next week, unfortunately due to the storms there was a delay to this. Mrs Vautier will take small groups once a week to carry out Forest School activities.

Our PE days will be Mondays and Fridays. On Monday we are supported by Sports Bugs, where the children develop a range of skills linked to the Early Learning Goals. On a Friday we will have a dance lesson with Dragos from Step By Step Dance school. Please could your child come into school on a Monday and Friday in their PE kits (either shorts or tracksuit bottoms, depending on the weather). Every day the children have access to outdoor play equipment such as balls, hula hoops, and stilts, which aids their physical development.

One group of children each term will have the opportunity to benefit from a term of free swimming lessons, based at Le Mourier Swim School. These will take place on a Wednesday afternoon. If your children is swimming in the Spring Term they will have received a letter in December.

The first lesson will be on Wednesday 10th January. Please can those children who are swimming wear their PE kit on a Wednesday. The final group will begin their swimming after the Easter holidays.

Other reminders

Please could you ensure that your child has a named water bottle with them every day (separate to their lunchbox) as well as a mid-morning snack (if in a pot, please ensure this is named). It would be useful if these were sent in in the green book bag. Once the lunchboxes have been placed on the trolleys in the corridor outside of the classroom, they do not have access to them until lunchtime, **hence the need for their snack and water bottle to be separate.**

It would be great if we could promote some fruit and vegetables at snack time. The children have the opportunity to access the snack table between 9 – 10:30am. Please help them practise opening packets, unpeeling fruit and putting their rubbish in the bin.

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Our school has a Facebook page – look out for our school logo – and a website www.stlawrence.sch.je and you can keep up to date with information using these sites. In addition, we operate a 'Parent Email' service to keep you informed. There is also a Reception 'What's App' group – please let me know if you wish to be added to this, and I will speak with the PTA members.

Pick up times are at 3pm and seem to have been working well. Whoever is collecting your child should have a QR code, and they are then released via the external Hall doors if you are on foot, or they are escorted down to the car park we also use for morning drop off.

Mrs Vautier and I are excited to continue working with you and your child this term. We have lots of exciting activities planned and we are very proud of the children so far.

Trips

We have a trip booked on Wednesday 31st January. We will be going to Hamptonne in the morning for a storytelling session, led by Jersey Heritage. The session lasts for one hour and we will be travelling to and from Hamptonne via 2/3 mini bus trips.

Lost Property

I have a small pile of unnamed items that have been found in the Reception classroom, or outside the classroom at the end of last year and the start of this year. I will post photos of the items on the Facebook group this week and if you recognise anything then please let me know.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me. If it is urgent please email Ms Sangster, as I do not always get to emails each day.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Lowry
m.lowry@stlawrence.sch.je

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