



Dear Parents/carers,

Welcome back! It has been such a wonderful start to the school year and I think that this year, more than ever, we are pleased to welcome the children back to school. We hope you had a fantastic summer holidays and managed to do plenty of exciting things that were restricted during lockdown. It has been lovely to get into the swing of things again at school. We have an exciting year ahead of us in TSU.

This letter will give you a brief overview of some of the events and changes happening this term, as well as give you a reminder about some of our school routines (which may now be different!)

Start of the Day

Thank you so much for adapting to our free flow entry time of 8:40-9:10am. The children are coming in really well and have got completely used to coming in through the staff car park now.

PE Kit

Children are now expected to **come to school** in full PE kit on their PE day which is Friday. This has been a great change as now we have more time for doing PE and spend less of our lesson getting changed! Thank you for your efforts with this- very few children have forgotten their kits so far! Please make sure to dress appropriately for the weather, wearing joggers and a jumper where needed. A light waterproof coat may also be a good idea on some days, as we will be keen to get outside.

Forest School

Please bring your wellies, warm clothes and waterproofs on Friday! These will be stored in a trolley and on pegs until they are needed in the day.

Home Learning

Homework will look quite different this year as we move from paper homework to online learning. We are really excited about our new virtual learning environment which is currently being set up. In Computing lessons at school, the children will learn all about how to use Google Classroom and will understand how to access tasks that will be set on there. We hope to have this set up for after half term and will be using it in some school lessons as well as for home learning. If you do not have a device or internet, please let your class teacher know and we will be able to give out paper versions too.

In the meantime, there are lots of things you can be doing to help your child with their learning:

Reading- It is expected that even in KS2, children read out loud **every day**. Even if your child is no longer on coloured book banded books, it is essential that they have the opportunity to read to somebody else as it develops their accuracy and confidence in reading aloud. It is also a fabulous chance to question them on what they have read- a key skill for reading!

Maths- It is also really helpful to get children's fluency of number facts quick. The key facts to try and remember are:

Number bonds to 10 (two numbers that add to make 10, e.g 2+8 and the corresponding subtraction, 10-2 =8)

Times tables

Hit the Button is a great online game where you can race against a 1 minute timer with these number facts.

Spelling- after such a long break, some children have forgotten some key spellings such as here, had, because and other words. It would be great if while you are walking to school or in the car, you could practise spelling common words!

Meet the Teacher

You will receive a short written report on 15th October from your child's class teacher. There will also be the opportunity to arrange an optional virtual meeting or phone call should you wish to discuss this report further.

Christmas Performance

Christmas has not been cancelled at Sticklepath!

Our new plans for the festive season will hopefully bring some festive cheer to children and adults alike. Nursery and reception will still be performing the traditional nativity which will be filmed and shared with parents. The rest of the school will be 'Sleighting it' with a Mrs Oke spectacular lip syncing Christmas carol competition, complete with costumes and props! This will be live streamed between classrooms and shared with you all for your Christmas entertainment. More details to follow!

Thank you for your patience and flexibility with the new changes at school. The children have all settled in so well in the past few weeks and they seem to really enjoy getting back to their learning. We are reminding them of how to continue to develop their growth mindsets through embracing challenge, persevering and learning from their mistakes. These key messages help our Sticklepath learners to become the best they can be!

Miss Tash Summerville