

STAPLEFORD COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Bar Lane Stapleford Cambridge CB22 5BJ

Part of Anglian Learning

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the Summer Term! I would like to take this opportunity to say hello to you all - my name is Mrs Stick and I will be your child's teacher for the next term. It has been lovely getting to know Willow Class over the last few days and I am really looking forward to the exciting learning we have planned.

This half term our topic is 'Let it Grow!' We will be learning about different types of plants and how they grow and exploring the traditional tale Jack and the Beanstalk. Thank you ever so much to those of you who have brought in seeds and pots for our garden area. If you have any unwanted gardening items at home please feel free to send them in and we will definitely make use of them! We are very excited about our trip to the Botanic Gardens in Cambridge next week on Wednesday 4th May. The trip includes a mixture of activities and observations to extend and inspire the children's learning about the natural world (including seeing the world's biggest seed!).

Please have a look at our Topic Web for this half term, which outlines the main learning objectives for each of our subject areas. This term we will be focussing on Science, Geography, Art, Music and Computing in the afternoons, with the morning lessons concentrating on English (reading and writing skills) and Mathematics.

As you may be aware children in Year 1 complete a Phonics Screening Check to ensure they are using their phonics knowledge effectively to read familiar and unfamiliar words. The screening check will take place after the half term holiday (during the w/c 6th and 13th June). We are doing lots of phonics practise in school, but I will also be sending home a weekly phonics activity sheet on Fridays should you wish to spend some time on this at home as well.

As the weather is getting nicer please ensure your children have suitable sun protection on/with them for school.

Please see the information below for the Summer Term.

Water bottles

There are water fountains near the cloakroom, however, if you would like to provide a named water bottle for your child they will be kept in our classroom and we will endeavour to send them home to be cleaned regularly and refilled everyday.

Reading books

Children will now bring home a reading book on Fridays to read with an adult over the weekend and return to school on Monday. This will be a book that reinforces the phonics learning happening in the classroom and will be familiar to the children from their guided reading sessions in school.

Please feel free to add a comment in your child's reading record for me to read the following week. During guided reading sessions we will be focussing on decoding (sounding out words), reading with expression and comprehension (understanding).

Homework and Spellings

We do encourage some 'light homework' in Year 1, so I will be sending a short list of suggested topic based homework projects you could complete with your child if you wish, to be brought in and shared with the class. Phonics activity sheets will be sent home every Friday. They will ask the children to recognise the sounds they have been learning at school and use them to read and spell various words.

PE

We will be having P.E lessons on Mondays and Thursdays this term. On Mondays the children will be practising their hockey skills with Mrs Smithies and on Thursdays they will be learning Dance with myself. PE kit should include a plain red t-shirt, black shorts or jogging bottoms, and trainers or plimsolls. Please note earrings are not permitted to be worn in PE, so if your child cannot remove their own, do take them out on the morning of PE lessons.

Release time

Mrs Sarah Smithies will be teaching the class on a Monday afternoon allowing me to have planning, preparation and assessment release time. Mrs Smithies will be teaching the children PE and PSHE.

Naming clothing

Please could I ask that all children's clothing has their names clearly written inside, be it PE kits and daily school clothes, as they can often get muddled up!

Questions or concerns

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You can email the office and they will pass them on or if you would like to make an appointment for after school please drop a note or speak to the office and we can arrange a convenient time.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Sally Stick
Year 1, Willow class teacher