

# St Aidan's Newsletter

Autumn 1 2024



Happy New School Year!

## Welcome Back

A very warm welcome back to you all. I hope you've all enjoyed a restful and relaxing Summer holiday. It has been wonderful to see the children back in school and there is a real buzz around their classrooms which I love.

## Autumn whole school focus

This term, our whole school focus will be **diversity**. As we start a new year, our school is becoming more diverse than ever. We start the year looking at our school ethos and values and how we **respect** each other's differences and uniqueness.

In PSHE, we will be looking at different families and our similarities and differences. As a school we will be celebrating Black History Month, studying inspirational black people and black history, using literacy lessons to write about what we learn.

Going forward, we want to really focus on the values which make St Aidan's what it is. These values should be threaded through all aspects of our school life and we want to ensure they are at the core of everything we do and children know what they are but more importantly how they help shape them. It is important to us that these values are present and taught not only in school but, at home too. During their time with us we want our children to know that:

***'In the Love and Truth of Jesus we grow in....'***

**Tolerance**  
**Forgiveness**  
**Honesty**  
**Respect**  
**Courage**

## Changes to our week

Celebration of the Word will now take place on a Monday morning at 9:05am and we are hoping you can join us. On a Friday, we will continue to have a celebration assembly where children will be recognised for work, they have done in class but also for following our school values. News from outside of school and birthdays will continue to be shared in class.

## Morning arrival and end of day

On arrival to school in the morning, you will no longer need to line up. Children are welcome to come on to the yard until doors open at 8:40am. Children will then enter the school and head straight to their classrooms. Please note, that parents/carers must stay with their child until a member of staff is out and doors are open. If you have an important message for staff, please call the office or pop round to the office.

Could we remind all parents/carers that children should enter school through the yard and not the main doors and to arrive no later than 8:45am.

At the end of the school day, parent/carers should stand in line to collect their child. We ask that you do not shout for your child and wait for the teacher to release them in order. Thank you.

## Monster Phonics has arrived at St Aidan's!

Monster Phonics builds on the teaching in our Nursery which focuses on speaking and listening skills, the recognition of different sounds, rhyme and encouraging curiosity in letters and words, developing early mark making skills.

Monster Phonics teaches children to read by enabling them to identify the individual graphemes (letter combinations) and blend the sounds (phonemes) together to read the word. It is a fun way to teach phonics, since it is multi-sensory.

Sounds are categorised into ten colour groups, and each colour has a corresponding monster character. Monster Phonics is a highly advanced multisensory scheme.

The systematic colour-coding of graphemes linked to phoneme monsters makes the phonics easier to understand. Our children also love the monsters, who bring phonics to life! The multisensory activities involve reading, writing, singing and actions.

Meet the Monsters and Characters that support our children as they learn their phonics and develop their reading skills!

More information can be found on our Website.

## Meet The Monsters!



## Superhero spellings

Superhero Spelling has been designed by teachers, for teachers. A cast of superheroes and powerful memory cues will help your children learn key spelling rules and concepts. This is a complete solution to teaching KS2 spelling with comprehensive planning and resources to teach and practice all the statutory word lists with ease.

A key aspect of our approach is flexibility. Each week consists of three core phases: Learn, Build, and Show. Schools can choose to complete the Learn and Build phases together or separately. At the start of the week, the children will receive their weekly spelling words.

## Meet our Superheroes!



## Clubs

We will send out information about clubs and signup details as soon as we can but they will include a range of football clubs, show club, art club, coding club, book and a biscuit. Information will be confirmed as soon as possible.

## School improvement work

There has been a lot of comings and goings during the school holidays! The school has had new doors and windows fitted. We now have new fire doors throughout the school, new outdoor signage, new floor in the school entrance and Mr Trewick has worked all holidays to ensure our school environment is improved. A huge thank you to him for all of his continued hard work and dedication to our school.

During this half term we should the installation of new displays/signage throughout the school and work on our EYFS outdoor areas will be starting. Stay tuned!

**Could we politely ask that the main doors are not pulled open, please be patient with them.**

### **School uniform**

Just a reminder that any earrings should be removed before entering the school.

Please ensure your child arrives to school in correct uniform and PE kit- including black shoes, **not trainers**.

**The school does have a significant amount of pre-owned school uniform, most of which is in excellent condition. If you would like to request some – free of charge- please contact the office and Mrs Jobling or Mrs Shortt will be happy to help.**

A quick reminder, our fabric bin on the school yard has been emptied at the end of Summer Term so is ready to be filled up again, please find a list of unwanted items that can be deposited on the bin itself. Thank you.

### **Social Media**

The best way to find out about what we have been doing in school is to follow us on Instagram and/or Facebook.

### **Dates for the diary**

Please find attached a comprehensive list of dates and chances to be involved in this coming term. We are in the process of finalizing some school trips/experiences as well as School Council Events and will inform you of these as soon as dates have been finalised. Wherever possible, we hope that this list remains unchanged, however, if we need to, we will always try to keep you informed of this well in advance.

### **PSHE/RSE**

Our topic for Autumn 1 is 'Family and Relationships'. In this topic children explore what healthy relationships look like, how to be a good friend and how families can be formed. In this topic, children will explore online relationships and begin to understand how to keep themselves safe. Further details of our curriculum can be found on our website or if you have any questions relating to the content of our curriculum, please contact Miss Carrie (Subject lead) or Mrs Teer.

### **Trips and events**

As a school we want our children to experience a range of educational and exciting trips or events. With the rising cost of transport, we want to ensure that they are accessible to all. We will be sending you details of trips as soon as we can. Arrangements are being made for the Year 3 Camp out, Year 4 Kip on the Ship, Year 5 Edinburgh Day trip and the Year 6 Robinwood residential which will take place in the Summer term. You will continue to find out more information about these in coming months and there will be a parent meeting for each.

Please remember that the cost of one of these will never be prohibitive to the children taking part in one of these events. If you are struggling with the cost of living, please speak to us in confidence and we will support any of our families in whatever way we can.

## School Councilors

I am delighted we have elected a new School Council and Head Boy and Head Girl. They will meet next week and outline their plans for improvement in the coming weeks.



## Attendance

Reminder, we are enrolled on an attendance monitoring scheme. It helps us to monitor attendance levels and supporting children in achieving all they are capable by being in school as often as possible.

A-Star attendance uses a traffic light system and attendances continue to be categorised as follows:

Attendance %	Colour
96% and above	Green
90% - 95.9%	Amber
Below 90%	Red

## Finally...

We would like to all thank you for your continued support to our school and its community. As a staff, we love teaching all of your children and are all looking forward to another brilliant year here at St. Aidan's.

Mrs Teer



staidansashington



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