

Welcome to our Foundation Stage class!

Dear parents,

Welcome! We hope you have all had a lovely summer and we look forward to forming a partnership with you over the year to ensure that your child has the best possible outcomes. We have enjoyed meeting you and your child.

The children have been busy familiarizing themselves with their new routines and the codes of conduct expected of them to operate as part of a class. We are pleased to report that the children are doing exceptionally well with this transition and we are excited to see how they grow and develop during their learning journey here at SAVS.

Over the next week the children will be introduced further to the concept of house teams and their corresponding colours, house captains and house points.  On a **Friday** morning we will attend a whole school assembly that is a special ‘star of the week’ celebratory event. The children who are awarded the accolade by their teachers will receive an award in the form of a certificate for their achievements and if the latter is framed in a life skill, they will also be awarded a corresponding badge. House points across the whole school are also collated and shared by the house captains.

**Our topic this term – Journeys**

As your child settles in, they will have lots of opportunities to talk to their peers and adults. We will show your child how to establish good listening skills. Your child will take part in circle times which allows them the time to give their opinion and explain their thoughts. As a starting point, we have begun discussions where the children have shared their summer experiences and expressed their feelings relating to the aforementioned. Moving on from here, the children will be encouraged to recognise their achievements to date and how they have demonstrated resilience and positivity around the aspect of bridging the transition between home and school.

In keeping with the theme of moving from place to place we will be using the story book, The Three Billy Goats Gruff, as an impetus. The children will be busy exploring this well-loved tale, through a variety of cross curricular activities to bring this story to life in a multitude of ways. In addition, we intend to incorporate notions such as different methods of travel and investigating buildings and construction.

**These ideas within the themes may change or be replaced depending on child interest or fascination.**

**Physical Development**

Throughout our environment there are lots of opportunities for your child to develop their physical skills. Your child will have access to the outdoors come rain or shine providing them experiences where they can continue to strengthen their core and develop skills such as climbing, balancing, riding and large mark making. Your child will also begin weekly **PE sessions** where they will initially take part in physical games to develop their spatial awareness and gross motor skills. This term your child’s **PE day** will be on **Fridays**. Please can you ensure that on this day your child comes into school wearing their full PE kit.  Children will develop their fine motor skills through opportunities such as, threading, manipulating play dough, drawing, writing and snipping. They will be shown how to hold a pencil with an effective grip and will have the opportunity to practise using a range of tools – paintbrushes, glue spreaders, ribbons, etc.

**Literacy**

Over the first term we will be sharing a wide range of story books and we hope that you will ‘mirror’ this at home. We will have daily story sessions, where we read and discuss stories, what we like and don’t like about the text. Your child will also take part in daily ‘Read Write Inc’ phonics sessions.

Through our phonics teaching, your child will begin to develop confidence in blending and segmenting words as well as building up their sound knowledge. Furthermore, they will embark on shared reading sessions with their peers. In addition, soon you will receive our school’s online ‘Reading Eggs’ programme where children can access a range of materials to support them in their literacy development.

In time, your children will be given books to share at home that correspond with their known sound knowledge.

**Mathematics**

In our teaching of mathematics, we will be using the White Rose maths scheme for the Early Years. Your child will practise sorting and matching using different criteria. They will compare different quantities and use vocabulary like “more” and “less” to describe what they see. They will use appropriate maths vocabulary to compare size, mass and capacity. They will explore patterns and create their own. We will be doing lots of singing and counting and matching objects to numerals.

**Evidence me**

In school we are currently adopting a new online system (Evidence me) due to our previous system ceasing to be in operation. During this interim period, we will be documenting snapshots of your child’s learning journey in preparation for when we can electronically share with you.

(Further information on how to use this system is to follow). In order to help us celebrate your children’s achievements out of school and to give us a holistic picture of their learning, please can you endeavour to share with us all of your children’s ‘WOW’ moments. Please share them as frequently as they arise once the system is up and running.

We anticipate being able to share all of these wonderful moments with you at some point within the first term. We understand how important it is for you to have an insight into your children’s time at school so please be patient with us while we make this necessary adjustment.

**How you can help:**

Read to and with your child and discuss books every day.

Regularly share achievements at home using the Evidence me system when it is accessible. (Further details to follow).

Develop number recognition, counting skills and play number games.

**Please ensure your child has these items in school every day:**

A named and filled water bottle.

Suitable shoes.

A suitable coat – we go outside in all weathers, daily.

Please make sure that you have named all your child’s personal belongings. Including - all clothes, coats, gloves, book bags, lunch bags and drink bottles.

***Thank you for your support,***

***Selina and Lauren.***