



Scotforth St Paul's C of E Primary & Nursery School

"Let faith be your shield"

Scotforth St Paul's Primary and Nursery School
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4th September 2026

Dear Year 3 parents,

Welcome back to a new school year and a new key stage. We have had a very busy first week back including a visit from Steve from Life Education who taught us all about our wonderful brains. We have also already done some beautiful art based on our names which you can view on the class blog. It has been lovely to get to know the children better and see them start to relax into KS2! They seem a really great class, with an enthusiastic attitude towards learning, and I am very much looking forward to teaching them.

My main priority at the moment is to make the transition from KS1 as smooth as possible. Already the children have begun to settle into their new classroom and adjust to the different routines. In terms of teaching staff, on Monday the class will be taught by Mrs Ventress, and I will teach Tuesday to Fridays. Mrs Dowson, who is the science subject leader, will also be taking the class for science on Wednesday afternoons. Mrs Joel is our main teaching assistant (Monday -Thursday) and Miss Barnes will be supporting the class on Fridays.

Reading is a top priority at Scotforth and as they grow older, the children are gradually becoming more independent in this area. This week each child has been given a "shelf book" at the appropriate level for them. They should take this home each day, read it and bring it back to school the next day. We expect all pupils to read at home **daily** and in Year 3 this should be for at least 15 minutes. Please take time to listen to them if you possibly can. Some may need more support than others, but even very fluent readers benefit from discussing what they are reading.

Your child also has a reading record which should be signed when you have heard them read (there is no need to make a comment although you are welcome to!). These must be returned **daily** to school. The children have been really good at doing this so far! The **Karate Reading Challenge** is on again this year (starting from Monday 7th Sept) and the parental signatures will be counted when your child thinks they have reached a new band. There is a letter explaining this at the front of your child's reading record.

There is also a "**Recommended Reads**" List in the back of your child's reading record with ideas of high quality, suitable books to read with/to them. We have most of these in class and the children can bring them home *in addition* to their "shelf book". Although many of





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them are too long and tricky for the children to read independently, there are some wonderful books to read and enjoy together. I would really encourage you to keep reading to your child, even if they are a confident and fluent reader! As well as the Recommended Reads, we have a huge range of good quality picture books, non-fiction books, poetry and comics which the children can bring home and read alongside their "shelf book".

A weekly spelling list, which will often follow a particular spelling pattern, will be sent home on **Thursdays** to practise at home. The children will then be tested the following **Wednesday**. Please encourage them to learn these words, ideally by looking at them regularly rather than trying to learn them all in one go on a Tuesday night! Spellings will begin in Week 3, once we are settled into our timetable. There are some really useful pages about spellings in Y3/4 in the middle of your child's Reading Record.

The children should wear our active uniform every day and we will continue to do P.E. in this.

If you have any queries or at all, please contact us, either through email, or by speaking to us directly in the playground on after school. We look forward to meeting you all soon!

Mrs J. Redmayne

Mrs D. Ventress

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