



Jesus (the gardener) nourishes and tends us as we learn and grow, so that we can all flourish. As a vine, we are one, but all unique and special to Him. We care for each other, as God cares for us.



5-9-24

A very warm welcome to Scotforth St Paul's school ☺

Miss Marshall is the class teacher and Mrs Whiteside is the teaching assistant. Each week all teachers in every school have sessions out of class to prepare lessons and assess work, so on a Monday afternoon the children will be supported by other adults.

This half term the topic is "All about me". Please see the attached our half-termly learning programme to see what we will be covering. Each half term you'll receive a new one covering the topic for that half term.

We use an app called 'Evidence Me' to take photos and make observations about the children's learning. You will be able to see what the children have been learning each day and you can let us know what your child has been doing at home as well. We find that the children love it when we share their photos/videos from home with the rest of the class. You should have already received information about this in a separate email and an invitation to download the app.

Each child will be given a school house/team colour that they can represent, especially at times such as sports day and in our Intra-school sports activities. These should be the same as their siblings –please let me know if it's not!

We have hall sessions on a Wednesday and Thursday. A reminder that all children should be in our active school uniform this year and also that no earrings should be worn in school.

In the autumn term we like children to settle in, find out where everything is and get used to the new routines and school rules. Children that we feel are ready to sit through assembly will join worship. After the October half term, everyone will join in with assemblies. In the meantime, worship will be held in class. During the first few weeks Mrs Whiteside and I will be spending time assessing the level at which your child has started school. This, combined with the information from nurseries, will be used to give us a basis from which to progress their learning. I will discuss this with you at parents' evening.

Fruit and water/milk will be available free for children to have throughout the course of the day. Please send a named water bottle into school (only water please, no juice). We also offer toast at break time for a small cost of 20p.

Your child will come home with a reading folder with a reading for pleasure book (that you read to your child) and a 'Children's Reading Record' book. This is where you should record your 'reads' so that your child can gain the Karate Reading bands which is our school reading scheme we follow. There is a letter in the front of your child's reading record with all the information you will need. Reading records will be checked every Tuesday and Friday, please ensure you bring it into school on these days. When the children are ready they will receive phonic sounds mats/cards and a phonics reading book.

Over the first term your child will bring home different sounds with the letter we have been learning in school that day. Please go over these sounds at home with your child. Repetition and practice is key. The sounds will be taught in groups and as each group is taught, this set of sounds will be sent home as flashcards with suggestions for games to help the learning process. I will also start to send home decodable words that use the sounds we have learned so far. Again, practice is vital. As we learn the sounds, we'll also learn how to write the letters, forming them correctly. This will be an exciting time and these steps will be explained at each stage. Please sign this when you practise the sounds with your child. You are also welcome to make comments on how your child is managing. In addition to learning the sounds, we would ask you to read to your child every night please, as this really helps their skills develop.

The home/school reading book can also be used to pass information e.g. If a child has had a bad night or I have a question for you. This is a lot of information and we can discuss this further if you would like to, just let me know and we can arrange.

As a school we are focusing on handwriting, so when the children are ready, we will send home some handwriting practice for you to do with them at home as and when they need it.

We are often asked about behaviour. If a child does not do as they are told after being asked politely, then more firmly asked, we sit them out. Children are always told why and then asked to apologise. In the case of more serious incidents or if this happens frequently, we will ask you to come and speak to us. Reception children are very rarely sent to see the head teacher for bad behaviour (although they often see her with good work). Remember that some children will not be used to being in a room with so many others and so it can cause friction at the beginning.

Children often bring toys from home which as you can imagine causes lots of issues if they get lost or broken; so I would ask that you do not send your child in with toys from home in order to prevent this upset.

We have a class blog page on our website where you can see what your child has been doing; this is located under the Reception section on the school website.

If you have any concerns, please see either myself or Mrs Whiteside after school. Alternatively, you can write a note in the reading record book or email me on at:

[g.marshall@scotforth-st-pauls.lancs.sch.uk](mailto:g.marshall@scotforth-st-pauls.lancs.sch.uk) and we will arrange a meeting or ring you.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Marshall and Mrs Whiteside.

