



THE ST. MARY'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL
Bellamour Way, Colton, Rugeley, Staffordshire, WS15 3LN

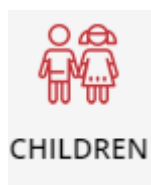
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Welcome back September 2024

Dear parents and children,

We cannot wait to have you back in school on Monday. We hope you have had a great summer full of excitement and relaxation. School is looking beautiful and all ready for your return. Please find below some information that will help with your return to school.

Website



Each class will provide a weekly blog for you to see what has been going on in school each week. The website will also contain key information around spellings and other key information. All information can be found under the children section of the website or the app which all parents should have access too.

Introduction to Schudio App

Download

The New Schudio App is available to everyone, and its completely FREE!

To get the Schudio App go to the App Store on your Apple device or the Google Play store on your Android device and search 'Schudio'.

Also available here:

[Apple App Store](#)

[Google Play Store](#)

Setup

Once you've downloaded the app it couldn't be simpler to use. Open the app and then select from the list of schools which School you wish to have as your school on our App.

Use

That's it! You're up and running on the Schudio App!

On the App you'll be able to see News, Events, Messages, Blogs, Calendar and Terms dates for your chosen school.

Communication

Please continue to follow our communication procedure via the school office.

As such the following will apply.

- All key events will continue to be placed on the school website which can be accessed [here](#). This should be the main checkpoint for upcoming school events.
- A website blog for each class will be available each week for parents to see what has been happening in the classes. This will contain photos of the children and information about their lessons and achievements. These are available [here](#).
- Letters regarding trips, clubs and sporting events will be sent on the website, as a reminder on schoodio with a link or directly to your email.

How to contact school?

- If you need to contact school please do so through the school office on stmarysoffice@tssmat.staffs.sch.uk
- These messages will be checked throughout the day.
- Messages will be passed on to the appropriate staff member.
- Phone calls can also be made on 01889 224506. Please leave a message if nobody answers the phone.
- Direct messages on Class Dojo are not available.

Stationery (Years 1 to 6)

Your child can bring with them to school their own pencil case. This should include a **blue pen (not biro), pencil, ruler, rubber, purple pen and red pen**. They are welcome to supplement this with crayons etc if they wish. We have stationery in school but feel this promotes independence and responsibility in our children. ***If equipment can be labelled it will really help***. Please also note that the children's drawers are not overly deep so large pencil cases are not really appropriate.

PE Days

Please note which days your class will be having PE this year. These will be available on the school website [calendar](#) also as a reminder. Please make sure your child has the correct PE kit for the academic year. More information can be found [here](#). ***Children should come to school in their PE kits on these days.***

Items in school

Please try to keep the number of items children bring into school to a minimum. Key Stage 1 and Reception children will need a book bag/small bag and Forest school clothing in a separate bag but please try to limit larger rucksacks. Lunch boxes are to be stored in the hall as last year for easier access. Key Stage 2 children are welcome to bring a bag but again please try to really limit these in terms of size.

Forest school

Forest school will be up and running from Week 2. Please take a look at the website for information on what to wear [here](#). As with all uniforms it is so important that all items are labelled. Children will be informed of when they are doing Forest school and this will be reflected in the website calendar. ***We would like each child to have a pair of wellies available that can be left in school all year round.***

Drop and Go/Care Club

Please ensure you book your places for Drop and Go or Care Club. We are already full on certain days and we do not want anyone to miss out. Please email the school office if you have any queries.

Rewards and Dojo Points

For Autumn term we will be trialling a house points based rewards system in school. Children will earn tokens for their houses which will culminate in weekly rewards and larger end of half term rewards for all children in the winning house. After discussion with the children we feel this will promote a team ethic and allow children to feel part of a team as they do on sports day. We also feel this approach will support the following:

- * Increased Motivation: The competitive nature of the system can motivate children to strive for excellence in all areas of school life.
- * Students are encouraged to behave positively to earn points for their house, fostering a positive school climate.
- * Enhanced Social Skills: The house system can help students develop a sense of belonging and community, as well as improve their social skills through teamwork and cooperation.
- * Recognition and Rewards: Students who earn points can receive recognition and rewards, which can boost their self-esteem and confidence.

The system can increase student engagement and participation in school activities.

These tokens will replace the dojo points the children currently earn. This will be reviewed in the Autumn term and the children will be consulted on the impact.

Homework

Homework this year will be very streamlined and based around the key learning skills of reading. Key stage 1 children will have a weekly spelling test on a Monday. Spellings will be available on the Class pages of the website under the 'Children' section. Please help your child learn their spellings each week, the meaning of the words, how to use them in sentences and how to write them neatly. Try to have fun learning them. Some useful ideas can be found below:

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/teachers-tricks-make-spelling-easy>

Key Stage 2 will not be having spellings sent home this term. Spellings will be taught each day in school in a range of practical and engaging ways in order to help the children transfer them to their long term memories. Homework will be based around reading and times tables.

We would like each child to again attempt to complete our Read 5 Times challenge. Reading is the foundation for everything. It allows our children to access the wider curriculum, learn vocabulary to improve their writing and to interact with others in their discussion of the books. No matter how high their reading ability is we would like parents to try to read with their children, discussing the text and questioning their understanding. Please make comments in their reading diaries and sign them each week. Some useful information on how to best support your child can be found on this link:

https://www.pearson.com/content/dam/one-dot-com/one-dot-com/uk/documents/Learner/Primary/Primary%20parents/Pearson_EnjoyReading_03.pdf

In order to monitor how often your child is reading we would like them, and yourselves, to continue to use their reading diaries.



We would like each page of the diary to represent one week (see example). Within these 5 times a week we would like at least two of the reading sessions to take place with an adult. This will allow your child to discuss and understand the text more and practise reading aloud.

If we can focus on these key skills all other areas of their education will see the benefits.

This year each child will have a levelled reading book and also have a Reading Challenge text. We believe that it is important to encourage everyone to develop a '*Life-long Love of [Reading](#)*'. *On our website you will find* a list of *Recommended Reads* for each year group. The books have been carefully selected to offer challenge, to experience other cultures and traditions and to provide deeper thinking to our children in terms of topical issues. Challenge your child to read them all over the year, they might even find their new favourite author or discover their *all-time* favourite book!

We will track the children as they read these books and progress towards completing the 50 book challenge. Please read these books with your child, hearing them read or reading to them so they can be immersed in the stories. Please also sign your child's reading diary to show they have completed a challenge book.

We cannot wait to welcome you all back and start this next academic year. Thank you in advance for your support and we cannot wait to see you all on Monday.

Yours Sincerely,

The Staff of St Mary's .Primary School