

William Fletcher School
Key Stage One – Autumn Newsletter

‘Where everyone counts’

11th September 2023

A very warm welcome back to school, we hope that you have all had a chance to relax over the summer break.

This term we will be exploring the topic ‘Water Worlds’. Please find further information about the topic in the curriculum map attached.

Class Dojo

Firstly we are very excited to announce that William Fletcher will be using ClassDojo to connect with families. ClassDojo is a communication platform that connects teachers with children and parents securely. Staff will use Class Dojo to communicate with families and share the wonderful learning taking place in class. The school will be sharing information, newsletters, dates and updates with families via Class Dojo. In time, Class Dojo will replace the school app as the main channel of communication. Children will be able to earn Dojo points for demonstrating the school values and gain certificates for accumulating points. We’d like all families to join us and sign up for ClassDojo! You can use it on any device: it is a simple, free mobile app for iOS or Android, and can also be used from a computer at www.classdojo.com. As parents or carers, you will receive a unique website link through your email. You will be asked to sign up using an email address and to create a password before you select your child from the class list. When you are connected, you will be able to access your own child’s online portfolio and any information the teacher shares on the class or school page. Find out more about ClassDojo, and how it is safe and simple for everyone - <https://www.classdojo.com/en-gb/learnmore/> Videos to help parents complete the signing up process in addition to instructions on how to use Class Dojo can be found in: our school/useful links section on the school website.

Reading

Throughout the start of term we will be reading individually with each of the children in order to assess the book band level they need to be on. Over the holidays they may have progressed, regressed or remained at the same level as the end of last term. Reading diaries will soon be sent home with information regarding the colour of books that your child is starting on. We will be offering the children the chance to change their books regularly throughout the week. In Years 1 and 2 children are expected to continue their regular reading practise at home; we ask that you **initial, date and log the amount of nights read** in the diary to show that you have listened to your child read. Children are awarded for reaching milestone reads, for example 25 nights of reading. Please encourage your child to show their class teacher when they reach these to receive their certificate.

As well as listening and supporting their reading at home it is important to talk about the content of the book to check their understanding. If you require guidance on this, please contact your child's class teacher. We will start group guided reading sessions in a couple of weeks once our initial assessments are complete.

Changing reading books

Over the next few weeks we are aiming to teach the children to change their own reading books, in the mornings, when they first come into the classroom. In order to do this successfully we require your help in a couple of ways;

- Before they enter the classroom, hand the book that requires changing to your child.
- Remind your child of the colour book they are reading.

We are happy for your child to take more than one book (within reason) if you are not able to remind them to change their books regularly i.e. if your child goes to breakfast club some mornings.

We are likely to experience a few teething issues at first so appreciate your support and understanding in this matter.

Other homework

The following homework tasks will be sent home on a Thursday/Friday and we ask that they are returned on Monday.

Phonics and Spellings

Once our initial assessments are complete the children will be learning phonics and spellings differentiated groups with the Key Stage One Teachers. After the first couple of weeks the children will be sent homework that links to the phonics group they are in. For the Year 1 children this will include learning sounds/harder to read and spell words (HRS) that are being taught in class. A decodable reading book will also be sent home (alongside book band books) that closely links to their phonics work. Most of the Year 2s will receive spellings that are linked to National Curriculum expectations. All homework is used to further embed what is being taught in class and your contribution really helps support your child's reading and writing journey.

Learning Log

The children will also have a home activity book called a 'Learning Log'. In the front of this book are a range of activities for your child to complete over the Autumn term (Up to December holiday). You do not have to do these in any specific order and some will need to be completed in other formats i.e. making models. Please **tick/highlight an activity, and date it**, once completed. We ask that a minimum of six tasks are completed by the end of the Autumn Term (by December holiday). If possible, we ask that you take photographs of any

craft/baking activities and stick these into the 'learning log', alternatively you can send photos/videos to your child's class dojo page. At the end of the Autumn term we will be giving children the chance to 'showcase' their favourite item from their learning log projects to their friends in KS1; this can be via their learning log book, the actual model or photos/videos sent in. Dates for this 'showcase' will be confirmed nearer the time.

Maths

To start the term we will be assessing the children through hands on practical activities. We will then have a big focus on developing and securing their number knowledge. In Year 2 we will be sending home a weekly 'Minute Maths' activity to complete.

Weekly Snapshot

We will send home a weekly snapshot to let you know about the learning taking place in class for the following week. We will add important dates to this too, so it is a useful document to look out for on class dojo each week.

PE kit

PE (physical education) lessons will take place twice weekly. On PE days the children need to come to school dressed in their PE kit. William Fletcher PE kit consists of; navy blue or black shorts or jogging bottoms, navy blue or black sweatshirt and a white t-shirt. PE lessons will be conducted outside where appropriate. Girls will need long hair tied up and earrings should be removed/taped over. The main school uniform policy must be adhered to during non PE days. Further information can be found on the school website.

Nightingales- Tuesday, Wednesday

Swallows- Monday, Wednesday

Kingfisher- Wednesday, Friday

Drinks bottles and snack

It is important for children to have access to drinking water throughout the day. For this reason, we ask that you provide a freshly filled bottle of water daily. The KS1 children are provided with a snack of fresh fruit/vegetables every day.

School dinners

If your child has school dinners don't forget to select their chosen meal via the fresh start website. You can book for the whole term. The fresh start team cook according to numbers so it is important that your child is included on the dinners list.

Concerns

If you have any concerns at any time, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher. We will always do our best to address any issues that may arise.

Yours sincerely,

The Key Stage One Team

Mrs Haynes, Mrs McDonnell, Miss Mckenna, Miss Parsons, Mrs Chambers, Mrs Lee, Mrs Lord, Mrs McEaney, Mrs Janssen, Mrs Saxton, Mrs Detessanu, Mrs Tyrrell and Mrs Charlett.